

# The Villager

A Magazine for Avening,  
Cherington and Nags Head

**November 2020**

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





## OPEN

Mon - Thur: 11am - 11pm  
 Fri - Sat: 11am - 11.30pm  
 Sunday: 12pm - 11pm

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# November 2020

The clocks have gone back and it is beginning to feel a lot like winter..... but that, of course, means Christmas with all its excitements is nearly upon us! It is certainly going to be a very different sort of Christmas this year, with plenty of doubt as to how many of our loved ones we will be able to celebrate with – apparently the farmers are concentrating on breeding smaller turkeys, in anticipation of reduced gatherings! And it means that some of our best loved village events, like the Playgroup Christmas Bazaar, turning on the Christmas lights and the Services of Nine Lessons and Carols in Avening and Cherington churches, will not happen in their usual formats. But don't despair, it seems we are a resourceful lot in these villages and there are plenty of plans afoot to stage either virtual or socially distanced events, details of some of which are in this issue.

Next month's Villager will be the usual Christmas and New Year bumper edition, so please be sure to send the editors anything you want to tell us about going on in either December or January. And any of those small businesses out there with gifts or other items ideal for Christmas; what about a one-off advert in the Villager letting us know about your wares? Very reasonable rates!

Please remember to keep sending us your photos of village events and your stories of what you have been up to. Taken up a new hobby in Lockdown? Let us know!

*The Villager Editors*

## The Villager Magazine

<b>Editors</b>	Jane Archer (07812 137161), Frances Conway (01453 832177) and Derrick Pierce (01453 835090).
<b>Advertising</b>	<b>editors@villagemag.online</b> <b>PLEASE NOTE NEW EMAIL ADDRESS!</b> Gwyneth Simpson 01453 836556
<b>Deliveries</b>	Cas Boddam-Whetham 01453 834834
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**Read online at [www.avening-pc.gov.uk](http://www.avening-pc.gov.uk)**

## Photographs in The Villager Magazine

Many thanks to **Nigel Bowsher** for this beautiful seasonal photo of Avening Church.

Keep sending us your photographs, especially since all the images will be in colour in the downloadable version of the Magazine

**editors@villagemag.online**

# **PETER SAVAGE**

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# Regular Activities in the Villages

Items struck through are temporarily suspended.

Event	Day	Time	Where	Contact
<del>Line Dancing</del>	<del>Monday</del>	<del>7.30– 9.30pm</del>	<del>Social Club</del>	<del>Social Club 01453 833760</del>
<del>Community Cafe</del>	<del>Tuesday</del>	<del>9.00– 11.30am</del>	<del>Social Club</del>	<del>Jenny South 01453 883456</del>
<del>Churchyard tidy up</del>	<del>Tuesday</del>	<del>6.00– 7.00pm</del>	<del>Holy Cross churchyard</del>	<del>Rev. Gerald 01453 883456</del>
Cherington PC	Tuesday bi-monthly	6.00pm	Zoom	Richard Smith
Bell Ringing	Tuesday	7.30– 9.00pm	Church Bell Tower	Andrew 01453 835783
<del>Line Dancing</del>	<del>Tuesday</del>	<del>8.00– 10.00pm</del>	<del>Social Club</del>	<del>Social Club 01453 833760</del>
Avening Youth Club	Every Tuesday in term time	6.00 - 7.30pm	Avening church	Rev. Gerald 01453 883456
<del>Over 60s Lunch Club</del>	<del>1st Wednesday each month</del>	<del>12.30pm</del>	<del>Social Club</del>	<del>Christine 01453 833246</del>
<del>Avening Cinema Club</del>	<del>1st Thursday each month</del>	<del>7.30pm</del>	<del>Memorial Hall</del>	<del>Katy 07806 614753</del>
<del>Avening W.I.</del>	<del>2nd Thursday each month</del>	<del>7.30pm</del>	<del>Memorial Hall</del>	<del>Liz 01453 833803</del>
Avening PC	3rd Thursday each month	7.30pm	Zoom	Caroline 01285 380041
<del>Summer Skittles</del>	<del>Friday</del>	<del>8.00pm</del>	<del>Social club</del>	<del>Derrick Ind 01453 835752</del>
Charity Quiz	1st Saturday each month	8.00pm	The Bell	
Avening Angels Choir	Sunday	4.30pm	Avening Church	Derrick Pierce 01453 835090

# Contacts for the Villages

Avening and Cherington Priest	Revd. Gerald South	01453 883456
Avening & Cherington Churches Reader	Derrick Pierce	01453 835090
Avening & Cherington Cricket Club	Derrick Ind	01453 835752
Avening Angels	Derrick Pierce	01453 835090
Avening Art Group	Doreen Pierce	01453 835090
Avening Baby & Toddler group	Katy Upton	07806 614753
Avening Bell Tower Captain	Andrew Lelliott	01453 835783
Avening Church Churchwardens	Elizabeth Buchanan Elizabeth Fuller	01453 833016 01453 835067
Avening Church Flower Team	Doreen Pierce	01453 835090
Avening Church Organist	Colin Chambers	01666 880026
Avening Church PCC Treasurer	Ann Brick	01453 834311
Avening Cinema Club	Katy Upton	07806 614753
Avening Community Orchard	Pheobe Carter	pklc1@hotmail.com
Avening History Project	Jean Chatelain	01453 834713
Avening Memorial Hall		07583 073604
Avening Oil Coordinator	Frances Lindley	01453 835115
Avening Parish Council Clerk	Shani Baker	07415 039234
Avening Playgroup	Angie Heslop	01453 832695
Avening Primary School	Jane Rushton	01453 833191
Avening Silver Band	Jim Hill	01453 834438
Avening Social Club	Derrick Ind	01453 835752



Avening Youth Club	Revd. Gerald South The Door	01453 883456 01453 756745
Cherington Village Hall	Camilla Trotter	07545 054160
Cherington Parish Council Clerk	Richard Smith	Cheringtonparishcouncil @yahoo.co.uk
Cherington Church Churchwardens	John Bate-Williams Helen di Mauro	01666 503544 07796 937268
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 PCC Treasurer	Paul Cable	cabes50@yahoo.co.uk
Community Café	Jennie South	01453 883456
Community Café Crop Swap	Chandy Rodgers	Chandra.rodgers65@ gmail.com 07734 971211
Cotswold District Councillor	Richard Morgan	
Friends of Avening School	Nicky Dill	01453 833191
Over 60s Lunch Club	Christine Howell	01453 833246
South Cotswold Community Wellbeing Agent		01452 528491
Stroud Hospital	Reception	0300 421 8080
Tetbury Hospital		01666 502336
Women's Institute	Liz Knowles	01453 833803

### **VILLAGE & AREA WEB SITES**

**Avening Parish Council: [www.avening-pc.gov.uk](http://www.avening-pc.gov.uk)**

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

**Cherington Parish Council: [cheringtonpc.org.uk](http://cheringtonpc.org.uk).**

**Cherington Village: [www.cheringtonvillage.co.uk](http://www.cheringtonvillage.co.uk)**

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

# Letter From Avening Parish Council Leader



I should like to begin my report by reference to progress in the ongoing stream issues, which have been a source of concern in recent months. The Environment Agency (EA) and CDC are compiling a report, which will examine the effect of the major earthworks at Aston Farm, just beyond Cherington Lake, involving a newly cut route in the cleared valley and damming of the springs to form a new lake. The flow only returned to normal in our stream once that lake had filled. If the report indicates that this action is the reason for the problems experienced then it may form the basis for enforcement action against the estate for the destruction of rare habitats impacting critically endangered species, plus planning and water infringements. Following the damage to our stream and depending on the findings of the report, the PC have unanimously agreed to take legal advice once our options are more obvious. We will aim to obtain financial restitution to enable us to reinstate livestock in the stream that was killed when the water flow was cut off. We always try to work with our local landowners and neighbours, but this has had such a serious impact on the health and diversity of the stream that we must take action .

During the ongoing discussions with the EA about these issues, I have arranged a meeting with them for a review of our flood defences and the holistic health of our streams – more on this next month after the meeting.

Thanks to Pete Barton for organising, and to all the participants for a highly successful litter pick – it's both interesting and disturbing to see the variety and amount of rubbish discarded in the verges! Separately, I have logged a case with Highways to clear the rubbish along the Nailsworth road – there is a lot to clear, including huge numbers of bottles and cans!



*Litter picking team*

By the time you read this we will hopefully have a new Memorial Hall management committee (although I do have doubts that we will have filled all the roles first time of asking). We have been discussing options for the responsibilities and relationship between the hall trustees and the management committee, and we need to have a close look at costs (we have already switched to cheaper electricity tariffs). I have asked for a meeting with GCC to review the lease and service charge arrangements with them before the new financial year as we haven't done so for many years, and much has changed since the lease was set up. This won't affect the school's status or budgets, but without any income from public rentals we need to ensure the hall is on a sound financial footing.

Along with many people I'm enjoying Farmer Sam's articles, and it's great that he has literally put Avening on the farming map with his pedigree herd. Despite having a lifelong



association with our rural community I am learning something new about life on the farm every month. David's travels are also providing some open mouth moments – I'm surprised he's still here to tell some of his escapades in far off countries!

As we slide towards winter the grit bins have all been filled, and we'll be dusting off the grit spreader (available to all residents to help clear local roads) that is housed in the hall alleyway. Cllr Patrick Mulligan will be the snow warden this winter and will coordinate any major weather events with Pete Savage who is our local plough operator.

Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal has kindly agreed to donate our Christmas tree this year, but unfortunately we can't have an event to mark the switch on of the lights. You will however be welcome to add spare decorations, and we'll try to think of something to enable them to be better spread over the entire tree.

If you have visited the website recently you will have seen that it has a fresh new look. The redesign onto a completely new platform was prompted by the need to make it more accessible to people with disabilities, so please do have a look and let me know if there are any errors or issues, or if you'd like to see anything in particular – not all pages are currently available, but these will be reinstated over the coming weeks

For Covid assistance it's [Covid19@avening-pc.gov.uk](mailto:Covid19@avening-pc.gov.uk) or call 07415 039234

***Tony Slater – email: [chair@avening-pc.gov.uk](mailto:chair@avening-pc.gov.uk): Web: [www.avening-pc.gov.uk](http://www.avening-pc.gov.uk)  
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# Avening and Cherington Churches



## Services at Avening and Cherington

Being able to hold services in our churchyards has been greatly appreciated since they resumed in July. However as winter approaches we will more usually be inside our churches. We are wanting to accommodate as many as possible to these services but we must maintain appropriate physical distancing so please be understanding in these unusual circumstances. Unfortunately we cannot sing as a congregation and face covering is required except for those in one of the exempt groups.

Meanwhile online services continue and may be found at:

[www.achurchnearyou.com/church/14317/](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/14317/)

and

[www.achurchnearyou.com/church/14319/](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/14319/)

We continue to be most grateful to the Avening Angels for recording sung music to enrich our services, both the live ones and online.

## Remembrance Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> November, 10.45 am at Avening Church

This year we cannot all gather in the church as this would not provide sufficient physical distancing. The service will be in the churchyard with the millennium cross as a focal point. As usual there will be laying of wreaths around the cross during the service.

There can be no house to house collection for the British Legion this year but Derrick Pierce will have been providing a 'poppies etc. shop' prior to the service and donations can also be made at the service.

## Harvest Festivals at Cherington and Avening

At Cherington our younger people provided enthusiastic readings and poems for our service and at Avening we could be outside in the churchyard amidst nature herself and the countryside views.

A very big thanks you to all those who so generously contributed food and other items for the Tetbury and Cirencester Foodbank – we were able to provide many boxes and bags which are now going to others.

## From the Parish Registers

14<sup>th</sup> October: Funeral and burial of Irene Powell (Avening)

## Forthcoming services:

1 <sup>st</sup> Nov	10.00 am	Eucharist Service	Avening Church
8 <sup>th</sup> Nov	9.15 am	Eucharist Service	Cherington Church
	10.45am	Remembrance	Avening Church
15 <sup>th</sup> Nov	10.00 am	Eucharist Service	Avening Church
22 <sup>nd</sup> Nov	10.00 am	Eucharist Service	Cherington Church
29 <sup>th</sup> Nov	10.00 am	Eucharist Service	Cherington Church
6 <sup>th</sup> Dec	10.00 am	Eucharist Service	Avening Church

# **Christmas 2020**

**CANCELLED**

## **OH NO, IT'S NOT!**

Our churches are now preparing for a rather different Christmas from usual – a challenge, and an opportunity for some variations.

Elsewhere in this edition you may read about plans for a nativity scene, inviting your contribution.

There will be some live services, albeit with limited numbers, and also online services with some familiar faces and voices.

Please see next month's Villager for further details.

More generally, we are now hearing many comments about how depleted Christmas is going to be if we cannot get together with friends and family as is our custom. That is all very true.

However, the heart of the Christmas story goes rather deeper. It will remind us of the presence of the love of God in the world and in our own hearts and minds. It will be a reminder of all that we are given, not least, life itself. No virus can change that, even if it does alter the ways we celebrate it.

**Gerald South, Parish Priest for Avening and Cherington**

[gp.south@btopenworld.com](mailto:gp.south@btopenworld.com)

**01453 883456**

## **Avening and Cherington**

For the time being our historic churches are open for private prayer at these times:

Avening: Wednesdays 9.00 to 5.00 pm

Cherington: Wednesdays 9.00 to 5.00 pm

You are most welcome to spend some quiet time in them.

## **Compline Service**

Our **Celtic** type Compline services continue on Zoom at 7.30 pm on Wednesday evenings please email [derrickcompline@gmail.com](mailto:derrickcompline@gmail.com). The link to the service will be sent to you with a copy of the service sheet

This is a short service, lasting only about 15 to 20 minutes; and is a chance for quiet prayer and contemplation.

**ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN IN**



## Memories of Fred Vening



*Fred receiving his 'Villager of the Year' award in 2014.*

In 1985 'a Vening' couple arrived in Avening with a destiny to leave a legacy on the village that will last for hundreds of years.

I met Fred and Judith via their neighbour Maud Maxwell. Typically, they had given her all the strength she needed as she moved away from her beloved Ireland for the sake of her husband's health and came to live next door to them. The monumental change and the imminent death of Maud's husband was a terrible time, but she always said she got through it with the help of Fred and Judith's immense generosity of spirit and sense of humour.

Fred and Judith moved from Avening in 1996 after which Judith had a cancer scare as well as a serious operation on her shoulder. After she recovered, it was to everyone's delight in the village that they regularly came back to the church..... starting with

the 8 o'clock, which was impressive, as they had moved a good half hour's drive away..... in order to say, as Judith put it so beautifully: 'Thank you'.

During this time, Judith got confirmed and as Fred heard the names of those who had died on the War Memorial read out one by one on Remembrance Day, he was inspired to find out their backgrounds. This was no mean feat, as there are 48 for WW1 alone on the stone plaque in the church. However, being a perfectionist, he pursued the research with a vengeance and his attention to detail was mind-boggling. He was, of course, helped by Judith and, also, their good friend Ann Brick who has given so much of her life to Avening Church and village. Fred described Ann as 'a good egg' and used to say: 'to get a head, get a brick'. Thank you, Ann, for helping me remember all he did.

Researching all those on the War Memorial, from both wars, meant going online and then cross-checking the Parish Registers, so to compile basic family trees for all the men. He often sent Ann off to check the local newspapers at Stroud Library for any obituaries.

A further massive amount of his time was taken to locate the soldiers' family homes with his wonderful idea of placing blue plaques on the outside with their names and dates. He did this with old maps and knocking on doors to talk to current owners. All this work is beautifully presented in four binders and it inspired other places to do the same, such as happened in Nailsworth. Fred was always happy to help others with their research, even meeting several people from overseas looking for their family roots.

He then went on to transcribe the Avening Parish Records from 1700 onwards to complement Ann's work of the earlier years.....and then the census entries for Avening 1841-1911 – again all indexed and filed meticulously along with lots of information of the Village history with different files for various categories.

Ann also helped Fred and Judith with several family history days enabling all the records to be available in the church or village hall for people to consult. It drew a great deal of interest as you can imagine. Not content with all this, he then went on to map the churchyard, recording all the graves and even helping to keep them tidy. He and Judith also ran the book stall for the fete for many years, and Fred served on the PCC.

The Village Hall in Avening was built as a Reading Room during WW1 by the owner of Avening Court in memory of his two sons killed in action. It was designed as somewhere quiet for returning soldiers to go to. Above the main door there was an inset intended for the names of those killed. Tragically, it could not be used as it was not nearly big enough, so a stone plaque was inscribed and put in the Church. When Fred found out how to get the blue plaques made via the National Memorial Arboretum, he realised that the same workmanship could fill the specially shaped inset and, yet again, through his determination to honour the soldiers, he got it fitted and there was a great opening ceremony. His vision was done and his way of doing it inspired the Parish Council to create a Son et Lumiere on the side of the church for the hundredth anniversary of the end of the First World War, using his material.

Nick Winkfield, another great volunteer, remembers Fred as a super friend who was very kind, always cheery and pleased to see you, with humour in almost everything he said. His last memories of Fred are of him standing in the Churchyard after the Remembrance Service, with Judith waiting patiently behind him as always, telling stories to a group with his inevitable light-hearted banter. 'Gosh', says Nick, 'we really miss him and we will certainly never forget him.'

No, we cannot..... because wherever you look in the village there is a touch of Fred. In the blue plaques, the Hall, the Church Records and then those wonderful files telling of the soldiers' childhoods, their ages, their incredible bravery in a factual, but sensitive way: all of which is such a reflection of Fred himself. Brave, proud to serve his Queen and Country, and deeply loving. Fred and his right hand, Judith, came to the village of their name and left their stamp upon it for generations to come.

Wow! What a man!

*Click Mitchell*

## **HELP URGENTLY SOUGHT**

**Avening and Cherington Churches would welcome some advice on video recording, transfer to social media, streaming etc.**

**If you have some expertise in this area and would be willing to share your knowledge and experience, please contact me – this could help with our Christmas arrangements.**

**Gerald South, 01453 883456, [gp.south@btopenworld.com](mailto:gp.south@btopenworld.com)**

# Puzzle Corner

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

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## Sudoku

Fill in the blank squares so that each row, each column and each 3-by-3 block contain all of the digits 1 - 9.

If you use logic you can solve the puzzle without guesswork.

*Answers on page 28*

1		2		3		4		5		6		7
8								9				
10									11			
								12				
13								14			15	
								16				
17		18				19						20
22								23				
24									25			

Puzzlechoice.com

## Across

1. Marine mammal (5)
4. Type of crossword (7)
8. Deviation from the rule (7)
9. Fabric (5)
10. Rubbing or clash (8)
11. Woody plant (4)
13. Egyptian statue (6)
14. Creatures (6)
17. Wander (4)
19. Expert on precious stones (8)
22. Decree (5)
23. Inactivity (7)
24. Victory (7)
25. Larceny (5)

## Down

- |                                 |                           |                              |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Dock (5)                     | 5. Shout (4)              | 15. Take aback (7)           |
| 2. Get rid of (7)               | 6. Male singing voice (5) | 16. Social outcast (6)       |
| 3. Fastidious (8)               | 7. Admit to (7)           | 18. Excuse (5)               |
| 4. Former name of Sri Lanka (6) | 12. Feeling remorse (8)   | 20. Helps to raise dough (5) |
|                                 | 13. Glut (7)              | 21. Molecule (4)             |



# Avening Community Cafe

October was another month of trying out new ways to stay connected and Covid-safe. Not only have we had pop-up cafes, coffee mornings and a curry night at The Bell, a litter pick and a ramble, we've also launched our own new bi-monthly newsletter, *The Buzz*. Throughout the month we've been heartened by hearing how much people appreciate our efforts. Nothing, as so many people know, is easy right now – not least for a Café that can't actually open!

Wendy Jennings led the first Café Walk, a short stroll along Mays Lane to Nags Head with walkers benefiting from a relatively dry morning. A second walk is planned for November, which will be led by Beverley Rymer and will last around two hours. A shorter walk will also be organised for anyone who fancies a gentler form of exercise. Please let us know if you'd like to join in and remember to wear appropriate footwear!

Staying outside, and hoping for some warm autumn weather, we'll be supporting the Avening Orchard clear-up on November 1<sup>st</sup> with tea, coffee and cakes for volunteers. Indoors, we're repeating our Café Curry Night at the Bell on 3<sup>rd</sup> November when Clare will be hosting a table for six. Please get in touch if you'd like to take part – either send us a message via Facebook or contact Clare directly on [ccbebbbs@gmail.com](mailto:ccbebbbs@gmail.com).



*Arthur Upton enjoying one of Christine Howell's cupcakes.*

Once again the Café's bakers were in action, this time in support of the Big Bake for Longfield Hospice Care. Sandra Hetterley, Mandy Slater, Christine Howell and Clare Bebbington baked a total of 160 cupcakes, butterfly cakes and Viennese whirls raising a total of over £100 for the charity. Thank you to everyone who bought one of our boxes – we hope you enjoyed the treats!

With so much going on, we've decided to launch a newsletter, *The Buzz*, to help people who are not able to come along to our pop-ups and coffee mornings to stay in touch with friends around the village. It's published every second and fourth Tuesday, available online via the Café's Facebook page with hard copies at the pop-ups, The Bell coffee morning and in the book boxes outside 6 Old Hill.

We are no longer 'just' a Café which takes place on a Tuesday morning. So if you've never been or are new to the village there's plenty of ways of getting involved. Get in touch and give it a go!

**Jennie South 01453 883456**  
**[jennie.south@btopenworld.com](mailto:jennie.south@btopenworld.com)**



## Avening PlayGroup Early Years Assistant required



15 – 20 hours per week for term time only

Avening Playgroup is a community led preschool. We are looking for an enthusiastic, fun loving and caring team member to join us. The successful candidate must be dedicated to delivering outstanding provision, have a level 3 Early Years qualification as well as certificates in both child protection and first aid. Candidates will have a clear understanding of the EYFS, and have a positive approach and dedication to the role.

For more information or to request a job description and application form please contact Naomi on [aveningplaygroup.chair@gmail.com](mailto:aveningplaygroup.chair@gmail.com)

Avening Playgroup is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Applicants will need to provide right to work in the UK documentation, undertake an enhanced DBS check and provide two satisfactory references prior to starting employment.

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Instagram: miranda.c.j

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# Cherington Villagers Turn Apples into Juice!



Harvest remains such an important time in our rural community and we wanted to find a way to come together as a village and celebrate harvest both great and small. Normally we would have a harvest 'bring and share' supper in the Village Hall following the church service, but of course this year such a gathering was not possible. The allotments and back gardens of Cherington have been a hive of activity this year with folks having more time on their hands and more determination to grow to their own. With that in mind we decided to combine our abundant apple crops to celebrate harvest, raise some funds for the village and church and have some fun shaking the trees – producing our very own Cherington Apple Juice!

With a blue skies and crisp autumn sunshine forecast and a brief reminder after Saturday evening's Harvest Festival Service, fruit pickers of Cherington got busy in their orchards in the first weekend in in October: picking shaking and climbing to get their fruit. Boxes and bags of apples started to appear in the village hall mid-morning, and after a quick message on the village WhatsApp a team of 6 armed with blankets and long sticks appeared in my garden to help reach the hard-to –reach cookers. Teenagers were off up the tree to shake the branches whilst 4 of us gathered below catching the fruit as they fell into blankets.

Meanwhile Jill Forbes had designed and drawn a beautiful label for our juice. A quick sweepstake to guess how many bottles we had made saw the highest bid at 160 but in fact we ended up producing over



400 bottles! With 15 different households contributing fruit we had a really wide variety of apples and some pears. Paul Cable offered to help take the apples to the press when it became clear one car was not going to be enough!

Monday morning we were off to Hungerford to the aptly named Cider Barn and My Apple Juice Limited, where Richard and Sally and their team were on hand to take delivery of our crop. It was straight in the scatter, washer and press for our harvest and they suggested I come back in 3 hours to collect the juice.

The bottles are pasteurised, so the juice keeps unopened for near on 3 years, and there are no added extras, just Cherington apples and pears. All the waste skins and pulp is

used to feed the cattle on Hungerford Common, and it turned out Richard and Sally had been at the Cherington Flower Show last year so were happy to think of us selling our juice at the Show next summer.

Thanks to a motorised press and speedy operatives at the Cider Barn, the apple juice was bottled, labelled and ready for me to take back to Cherington the same day. A brief celebratory tasting was held in the village hall by a socially distant cluster of six when I returned from Hungerford with the cases of bottled juice. "Sweet with a good sharp kick at the end"; "honey overnotes with a hint of lemon"; "very drinkable"; "perfect with gin": just some of the comments.



We remain hopeful that we will be able to sell some juice at the Cherington Flower Show in 2021 but in the meantime the rest is being sold within the village to raise funds for the upkeep of the village hall and church. It was a great chance to come together as a community, celebrate harvest – and make something very, very tasty to last us through the winter months.

*Helen Di Mauro*



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## Church Floodlighting

The church was floodlit on **30th September** in memory of **Michael Powell** who captured England's green and pleasant land on celluloid. We celebrate the humanity in his films **Thelma, Kevin and Columba.**

The church looks beautiful at night when floodlit. If you would like to have this in memory of a loved one, or to celebrate a special event, contact **Paul Brown 01453 835983**. The cost is £10 for 2 hours.



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# Avening Playgroup

All the children have settled into the playgroup routine really well and are building new friendships, which is lovely to see. They have really adapted well to the different routine we now have at the playgroup.

During the past month the children have been learning about:

**Height, length and size:** We have measured ourselves and recorded how tall we are on the height chart. The children have put themselves in order from smallest to tallest and found items that are tall or short.



**Goldilocks and The Three Bears:** The children asked to read the story. We have talked about the characters and what they do in the story, as well as played the Goldilocks game on the laptop. The children have also helped to act out the story using small world characters and made bear collages.

**Shapes:** We have been cutting around and colouring shapes, as well as talking about how many sides and corners the shapes have. The children have been playing with the magnetic shapes and talking about the shapes they can see around them.

**Numerals 1, 2 and 3:** We have been singing counting songs and matching items to the number. The children had fun rolling the dice and then carried out the matching number of claps or jumps. They have also had fun with number games on the laptop and number puzzles.



The children also asked to make robots. They had lots of fun with tape, glue and odd boxes to make some fantastic robots.

If you would like to know anything about our lovely playgroup, please call us on 01453 832695 or email [aveningplaygroup@gmail.com](mailto:aveningplaygroup@gmail.com). We are open week day mornings during term time.

*Angie Heslop*

## TONY'S CHARITY QUIZ NIGHTS

THE BELL, AVENING

1ST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH

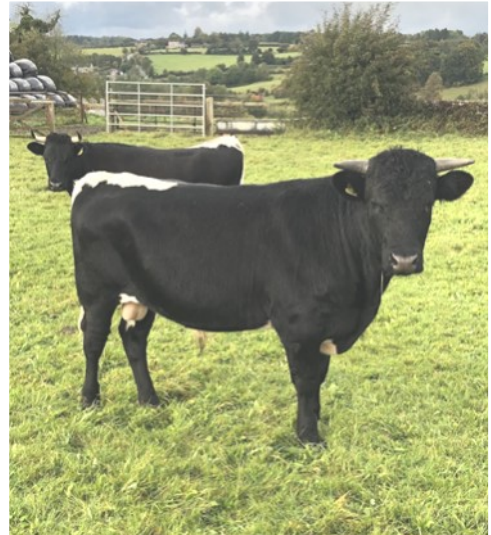
£2 A PLAYER: A MAXIMUM OF 4 PLAYERS PER TEAM

ALL PROCEEDS TO THE COBALT APPEAL, CHELTENHAM



## New Arrivals

Following on from last month's column, we have had a slight change of plan regarding the breeding of our Gloucester cattle herd. I explained that we were currently breeding using artificial insemination as a way to widen the gene pool. Since then we have accepted the fact that this method does not seem to be working on our cows and as a result we have purchased our first Gloucester bull! 'Hill View James' ('Jimmy'). As well as 'Jimmy' we have also bought a new breeding cow ('Fleur') and her five week old calf. They have all joined our existing herd and are settling in well. Have a look over the wall when you're next out walking to see if you can spot the new additions to the Gloucester herd.



## Herbal Ley

Over the last couple of months we have been very lucky to have had perfect ground conditions to establish the first of our herbal ley. To do this, 30 acres of fields once in constant arable production have been ploughed, the soil harrowed down and the seed sown and after a final roll we now wait to see what will pop up before the cold, short winter days halt growth until the spring.

A ley is defined as the period of time a crop will be growing for; in this case the herbal ley is destined to last approximately 4 years after which its production will slowly start to diminish. There are ways to slow this down and increase its vigour, mainly by stitching in new seed each year to produce a range of ages within the sward.

A herbal ley typically consists of grasses, legumes and herbs. With this composition comes benefits to wildlife, livestock health and soil fertility.

Grasses provide carbohydrates in the cattle's diets, along with the clover that provides protein. Herbs in this mixture, such as ribgrass, chicory and burnet, also increase daily live weight gains as they provide quantities of minerals. Other species such as Sainfoin and Chicory have a deep rooting system meaning that in dry periods, they should be drought resistant, therefore providing consistent grazing. Along with drought resistance, some of these herbs find important nutrients within the soil that they then make available for the livestock to graze. This means that the farm can become more self-sufficient and reduce the amount of bought-in concentrate (mineral-



rich) feed. On this note the legume family of plants, such as Clover, fixes nitrogen into the soil, which in turn helps to feed the other plant species growing alongside. This again reduces our need to buy-in artificial fertiliser.

Another reason for us planting this type of crop to graze is the anthelmintic (worming) properties provided by sainfoin, birdsfoot trefoil and chicory, considerably reducing our reliance on artificial wormers.



Herbal leys also have the added benefit of extending the grazing season when compared to a traditional grass pasture. This works well with our current practice of mob and strip grazing, meaning the crop can be fully utilised into the winter months.

The benefit for growing a herbal ley is best summed up by the 1950s author and farmer, R. Newman Turner, who was very forward thinking in his time. He described a herbal ley as *“my manure merchant, my food manufacturer and my vet all in one”*.

With this recommendation, I think it’s a good reason to give it a try!

**Sam Powell**

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# Avening School

## Celebration and Commemoration

So much has happened in our first half of autumn term, with trips, visits and celebrations all taking place in a safe way. The Kestrels and Hawks classes (yrs 1-4) had an amazing time at Copsegrove Farm in Bisley and enjoyed spending a day exploring and learning in a natural environment. Meanwhile, the Owls class ventured up to the park to meet with environmental expert Dr Phoebe Carter as part of the 'Orchard Project' and learning everything there is to know about soil as part of their forest school learning.

Continuing on an outdoor theme, Avening School has recently been selected to take part in the 'My school, My Planet' pilot project run by **Learning through Landscapes**. Funded through a Heritage Emergency Fund grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the project aims to support schools during the Covid-19 crisis by re-engaging pupils with their school environment, supporting their wellbeing and encouraging a greater connection to their natural heritage through the delivery of an outdoor education programme.

The Kestrels (y1/2) have been getting creative recently with a demonstration on traditional dip dying techniques by local resident Elizabeth Oliver, who paid the KS1 children a visit as part of their term topic on local mills and 'In and around Avening'. Both the Kestrels and the Eagles (r/y1) have been on walks around Avening recently finding objects, buildings and landmarks that link with the history of the village.

The Owls (y5/6) recently took part in a K'Nex challenge led by Stemworks, which enables them to build an appreciation of working and experimenting with science, technology, engineering and maths.



The School Council have held their first meeting and have been planning how to hold the usual calendar of school events and activities in a Covid-Safe way. This year's harvest festival will be held in classrooms using Zoom to bring the whole school together and Rev. Gerald will join us virtually for this seasonal celebration. The annual remembrance service will also take on a slightly different form this year with the school paying their respect in their class bubbles.

National Anti-Bullying Week is coming up this month and this year the whole school will be invited to wear odd socks to school for the day to celebrate being different.

One of the things we pride ourselves on at Avening school is our loyal and dedicated staff. We are fortunate to have a wonderful wealth of experience on our staff and a real sense of community amongst the team. Over the past two months, we have had two anniversary celebrations. Our fabulous Mrs Sollis and wonderful Mrs Wilkinson have both been with the school for a remarkable twenty years. On behalf of our school - pupils, staff and governors past and present - we want to thank them both for their endless energy, enthusiasm and dedication over the years. See the accompanying photo of our two Avening superstars taken many years ago!

Normally in October, we hold our school open morning. Instead, this year we have filmed a virtual tour, which is ready to view now on the school website. The tour will be led by members of our school council and our head teacher Mrs Rushton is more than happy to answer any questions or queries for families interested in joining Avening School.

*For further information about this busy place of learning and see to view our virtual tour, please see our school website: [www.avening.gloucs.sch.uk](http://www.avening.gloucs.sch.uk)*

**Alex Adcock**

### **To All Villagers:**

In the absence of our Crib service and the Carol service as we know it, this year's build-up to Christmas may seem a little subdued, but here's some news to warm your Christmas cockles...

You can still be part of our special

### **'Life- size Nativity!'**

For just £5\*, we'll provide the clothes – all you'll need to do is find things to fill them to create the characters who feature at the Christmas Nativity scene. Kings, shepherds, Mary and Joseph and maybe a few random passers-by. You may be as creative as you like! Grab your pillows, bamboo tepees, empty plastic bottles.. footballs for heads, laminated photos of faces glued to frisbees, a friendly face carved in to a pumpkin...! Just a few ideas and we know you'll have lots more.

We will then arrange a special 'exhibition' evening creating a life size crib, where your name will be displayed by your creation.

More details to follow, but for now, if you would like to reserve a particular costume please speak to Liz Fuller: 01453 835067 or email [eliza.82@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:eliza.82@hotmail.co.uk)

\*all proceeds go to Avening church.



## Avening W.I.

We were not able to get together to celebrate our 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in October. However, to mark the occasion, each member received a personal call from a committee member and the delivery of a gift bag. The bag contained a piece of delicious birthday cake, baked by Gwyneth and her daughter, plus a hyacinth bulb and a bag of compost. This was an idea first tried as part of our 80<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations. Each member was asked to grow a bulb and to bring the result to a meeting in the New Year. Shirley tells us that last time the outcomes were very variable, with some members bringing photos of their successes, or failures! This time we have used a range of colours and hope to make a rainbow with the results. We shall see.....!



Members have been busy using up their red wool to knit poppies for a display outside the Memorial Hall for Remembrance Day. We usually meet in the hall, which was built in 1920 by public subscription to commemorate those men from the village who lost their lives in the First World War. Forty-eight names of Avening men are listed on a plaque above the door, plus another ten names from WW2. This must have had a huge impact on the population at that time. There is some interesting information

about the men on the Avening Parish website. We wanted to make at least one poppy for each name listed and we have exceeded this target.

We are not expecting to have any proper meetings until at least the New Year but are hoping to still have some walks and small group activities, and we will continue to stay in touch with monthly newsletters.

*Helen Haiselden*



## Avening Youth Club



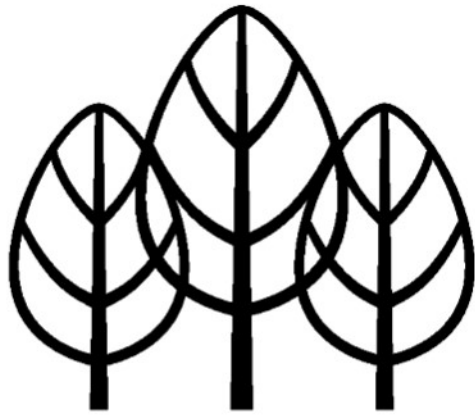
Our lovely church was the venue for Youth Club, which started for the first time on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October, shortly after school finished. Initially it is for Year 5 and 6 children to ensure that the 'bubbles' are kept intact. Many thanks go to the Church for enabling this. Isak and George entertained the six young people attending for just over an hour, and all were enthusiastic to return the following week, when hopefully they will have been joined by a few more young people.

All precautions were taken to ensure that the church and those attending were covid-secure.

The Door can be contacted via their website, [www.thedoor.org.uk](http://www.thedoor.org.uk), or @TheDoorStroud or via Facebook. Also visit the Avening Youth Club site.

**Want more information?** Contact Rev Gerald South on 883456 or Isak at The Door on 01453 756745.





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# Puzzle Answers

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

W	H	A	L	E		C	R	Y	P	T	I	C
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I		B		O		A		N		L		S
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## The Great Exhibition

### This year's title: 'LOCKDOWN'

This is to remind you of the 'Great Exhibition' of Artwork, Projects and Accomplishments that have been achieved during 'Lockdown'.

The three day Exhibition will be held in Avening Church when people once again are free to gather together and enjoy the occasion, chat with their friends and look at the displays.

We do not know precisely when it will be held - but please don't forget. Keep Creating!

Dates: to be announced. For more information contact George Buchanan (01453 833016) or email: [buchanan.pg@gmail.com](mailto:buchanan.pg@gmail.com)



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## Nature's Survival

That was such a beautiful, nostalgic poem that Gillan Bulmer-Davison wrote in October's Villager and what I'm writing are purely personal observations made through the last few months.

I do have to say that in spite of all the cars spinning along our country lanes at all times of the day and night, nature seems to be coping pretty well.

I've never seen so many wonderful butterflies in my garden - Red Admirals, Peacocks, Cotswold Blues, Skippers and many more – and quite often accompanied by the heavy drone of bumblebees, evoking very much the feeling of a summer's day, particularly with swifts screaming overhead and the sight of the swallows lined up on the wires. Skylarks, too, singing their little hearts out and well away from patrolling foxes. Looking at various heaps of feathers scattered around, I don't somehow think that the pigeons have been quite so lucky.

Sad not to have any hedgehogs but why should I complain when on a sunny day there are goldfinches swaying on thistle-heads, robins, blackbirds and thrushes singing away and a pair of wrens flitting in and out of the shrubbery – so tiny and so agile. Blink and you miss them.

The hedgerows have become larders for wildlife with huge crops of early blackberries and now enormous sloes all ready to be pricked, dropped into bottles of gin, put away in the cupboard to mature and, hopefully, not drunk for months. Masses, too, of really early holly berries awaiting the arrival of the fieldfares and waxwings that come in like plagues of locusts, strip the berries and disappear.

As the days shorten, the animals and birds - like the rest of us - settle into autumn and winter mode. But the owls will still hoot, the foxes and the badgers will go about their nightly patrols, the squirrels will be digging up the lawn burying their horse chestnuts and nature will do what nature always does, against considerable opposition a lot of the time. And I think in this strange and sometimes scary world we are living in, we have to thank nature for what it gives to us.

*Ann Tarlton*

### **Advance Notice A433 Tetbury Road**

This road will be closed 30th November - 11th December 08:00 – 16:30 (excluding the weekend), to allow contractors, working on behalf of Gloucestershire County Council, to carry out essential Ash Die Back tree felling.



# Cherington Parish Council

Village life has been somewhat disjointed since March - and the heart of the village has changed, from not having a Sunday Church service and due to the loss of the Village Show. Gerald, our Vicar, has done a lot of work to produce weekly services online and now outside in the Churchyard. Thanks to him and to all who contributed to ensuring services continued.

The loss of the show is disastrous because of the financial support it gives to the Church, Village Hall and Cricket Club, amounting to £2,000 annually. It also generates reserves for any 'unexpected' situations in the village. The VE day celebrations in May were also a loss - but life continues, and thankfully everyone has survived the pandemic. There is much to applaud in how everyone has supported each other, making sure that things are OK, doing shopping, collecting prescriptions and generally just being there. Thank you all.

Working from home seems to be the new standard, which has its good points, although getting away for the day is also nice, unless it means a massive commute.

Currently our Village Hall is closed. Wendy and Hilary have run the hall for many years, responsible for everything from cleaning and opening for hirers, to carrying out the administrative tasks. Many thanks to them both - they have done a sterling job that has made life easy for the rest of us. Hopefully, it will be closed only until January, for the work involved in fulfilling new pandemic regulations and protocols. This gives us an opportunity to look at what needs doing to bring the hall up to date. Thanks go to trustees Zac Curtis, Alison Sharpe and Kevin Macmahon for all the work they have done over the years in keeping the hall so well maintained.

Camilla Trotter kindly took over the role of Administrator after Wendy left, and she and Kate Gegg, representing the Parish Council, are now overseeing all the works that are needed. They have the support of Harriet I'Anson, who is helping us with all the legal issues. The three of them have joined Kevin Macmahon as trustees since Zac and Alison are sadly stepping down too, due to work and other commitments. I know the new trustees would welcome any input or opinion - so do please get in touch with them if you would like to be involved.

The aim is to make the hall truly fit for purpose, and this will mean initial works to provide warmth and a new door and ramp which would give better access to all users. In time there are further plans to improve the hall so that it can be more widely used and be more financially sustainable, but we will come back to you on that. Under the terms of the hall's Trust any changes need to go to the Village vote.

Normally we have a Parish Council AGM in May which gives us a chance to run through the goings on in the village over the past year, and so that issues can be discussed for the coming year, but obviously this has not happened this year. There have not been a

lot of planning applications in the Parish this year, but we have welcomed some new residents who have realised very quickly what a great place Cherington is to live.

The one costly purchase we have made was the phone box which we bought from BT - for a pound! This is now the property of the village and we welcome any suggestions for its use. First, it will need a fresh coat of paint.

The Parish Council Web Site is <https://cheringtonpc.org.uk/> and along with meeting, financial and council business news you may use it to address comments both to council members and to the clerk.

**Mike Mitchell, Chairman,  
Cherington Parish Council**



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# Avening Parish Council



The Parish Council Meeting via Zoom on 21st October 2020 - The meeting was open to all residents of the Parish.

## Community Support

GCC has issued a 6-point plan to tackle the rise in Covid cases.

- Reinforce National Advice and Guidance
- Increased Enforcement
- Positive Case Welfare Checks
- Suspend all Care Home Visits
- Community Protection Officers
- Work with Shielded Groups

Please continue to do your part – Hands - Face – Space.

And please check on your neighbours!

## The Memorial Hall

The Parish Council has taken over the temporary management of the Memorial Hall. With many activities curtailed this is a difficult time, and due to Covid the hall is currently only being used by the school. We are hoping to set up a new management committee at the meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> October.

The hall is a vital asset to the community and needs volunteers to come on board. If you feel that you would like to be involved, please contact the Clerk.

## Overhanging Bushes

There are still overhanging vegetation in the village. Please cut it back to avoid injury and inconvenience to pedestrians.

## The Stream

The reduced flow of water along the stream has been reported to the Environment Agency who are continuing their investigations to land works at Cherington. We are waiting for their response.

## Planning Applications & Tree Works

### New Applications – Planning

20/02952/FUL – 18 Sandford Leaze - Rear Elevation Flat Roof Dormer – no objections

### Decision Notices

20/02511/LBC Norn House, 12 Nags Head - Removal of wall separating kitchen and breakfast room – Refused.

20/02392/TCONR - Old Post Office, Point Road – Fell previously coppiced Horn Beam. - Permitted

## Potholes

Report the potholes directly to Highways on 08000 514 514 or via the website at [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk) – it only takes a couple of minutes.

Agendas and minutes can be viewed at [www.avening-pc.gov.uk](http://www.avening-pc.gov.uk). The Parish Clerk can be contacted via email: [parishclerk@avening-pc.gov.uk](mailto:parishclerk@avening-pc.gov.uk)



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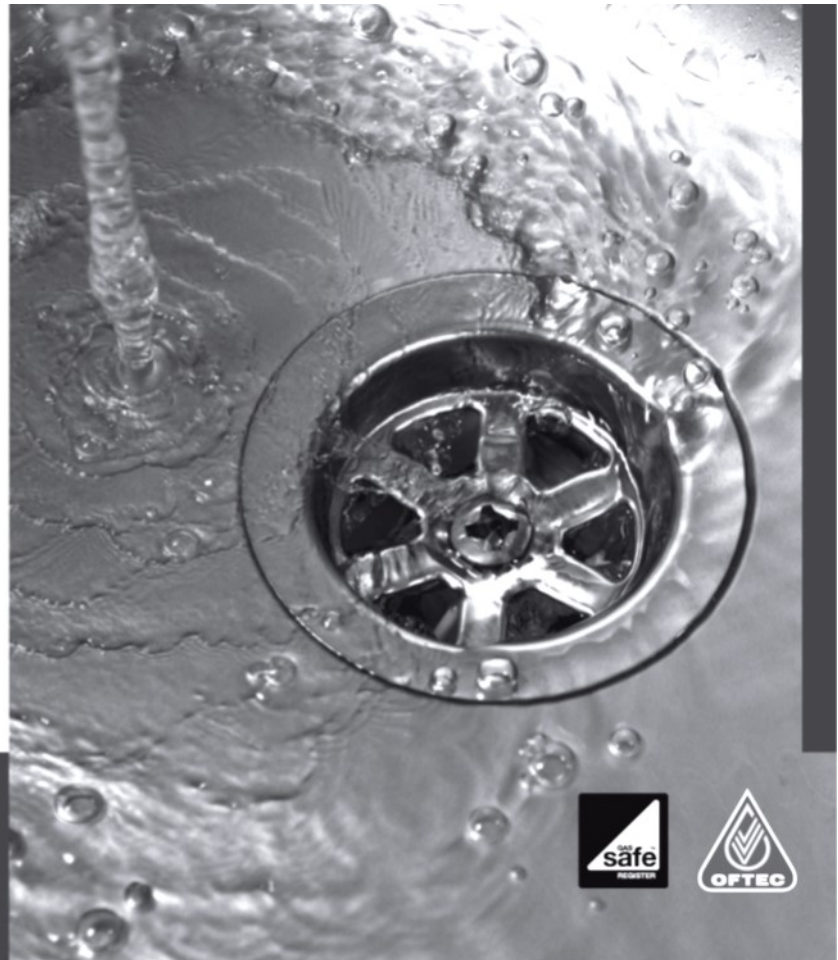
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## Extra support and discount for all Frontline Key Workers

The team at Auto Bodytech want to say thank you to all the incredible emergency services, health and social care workers, for all your efforts to keep us safe and secure at this difficult time!

We are currently carrying out support and repairs to emergency vehicles but now expanding this to all key workers\*, and anybody that may need vehicle repairs.

From immediate effect we will carry out urgent repairs, offer loan vehicles and a discount of 15% to all NHS staff on your invoice or use the equivalent funds as a donation to your local NHS trust.

We are also practising social distancing with our customers and sanitising vehicles before handover.



for free, friendly, local advice, pop in or give us a call

# 01453 832871

[info@auto-bodytech.co.uk](mailto:info@auto-bodytech.co.uk)  
[www.service-tech.org.uk](http://www.service-tech.org.uk)



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