

Avening

January 1980

Parish News-sheet

No. 7

We begin this first news-letter of the 1980's by wishing a very happy new year to all our Avening residents. May it be a happy and successful one for us all and the beginning of a decade filled with prosperity, health, happiness - and peace.

This would seem a good time to remind ourselves that there are more than fifty elderly people living alone in Avening - in our midst. This news-letter will reach you at a time of year when the weather can be expected to do its worst. Perhaps you have an elderly neighbour who would welcome a visit or appreciate help with his or her shopping, particularly now, when roads and pavements can be so treacherous.

Make 1980 the year of the good neighbour!

We should like to extend a very warm welcome to the new headmaster of the village school, Mr C.J. Clarke, and wish him a long and happy term of office in Avening.

The tree-planting programme is now well under way. Shrubs and trees have been planted at the top of Hampton Hill and on the bank in Mays Lane. If anyone would like to donate a tree or shrub, would they by all means contact the Parish Council. They will be most grateful for all such offers, however small.

TO ALL DOG LOVERS - A PLEA FROM THE CHAIRMAN
You are invited to visit the Avening Playing Field in Rectory Lane on any fine day. Don't take your dog with you. Just take a walk in any direction, along the length or breadth of the field and, whatever you do, look where you are putting your feet!

Will you now think of all the small children of the Primary School, who are taken there every week to play games - football and sports of all kinds. THEY have to contend with all this filth into which you nearly, or probably did, put your foot. We have said it before and we say it again - this filth is disgusting, a disgrace to a civilized village and a danger to the health of our children.

We are extremely privileged here in Avening in having a good playing field. CAN WE FOR THE SAKE OF OUR CHILDREN KEEP IT CLEAN?
TAKE YOUR DOGS ELSEWHERE. YOU HAVE PLENTY OF CHOICE.

Those of us who remember the 1965 floods will know how much damage a rise in the level of the village stream can do. The Parish Council are very concerned at the amount of rubbish which is being dumped into the water. A collection of old boots, beer cans and other indestructible rubbish is constantly being dredged out of the brook. Those floods could happen again! The last time the Council had the brook cleared, the water level fell by 3 inches. It doesn't take much imagination to realize the potential danger if a few thoughtless people continue to dispose of their rubbish in this way. PLEASE keep the brook clean and the village safe from flooding.

The next bulk refuse collection will be made on Friday, January 25th. Please notify the Cleansing Department if you have any very large items to be collected.

The Avening Youth Club's recent 'Bring-and-Buy' sale, organized by the members themselves in aid of the Cambodian refugee fund, realized £53. Congratulations to club members on a very successful and worthwhile effort!

Do all new-comers to the village know that a Child Welfare Clinic is held in the village hall on the third Tuesday of each month at 2.15 p.m.? Mrs Bean, the Health Visitor for the area, and a doctor are in attendance at each session. All mothers with small children are welcome.

In connection with the 1980 celebrations, the Avening Society is preparing a brief guide to the village. If you know of some interesting aspect of village history - perhaps the history of your own house - please contact either Mrs G. Edmunds or Mr E. Vincent and give them all the details.

For example, have you noticed any bricked-up windows in the older cottages? In 1696, a window tax came into force and houses were taxed on the number of windows they had. So, to reduce their tax bill, people often bricked up one or more of their windows. Some of these 'blind' windows are filled in with bare stone, others have imitation window bars painted across them. Have you noticed any in Avening? Something to look out for on your next walk.

Sixteen correct solutions to our October competition were received. The winner's name was drawn from a hat at the Parish Council's November meeting and the prize went to Mr Mills of Rectory Lane.

Applications to book the village hall, including the new Chamberlain Room with its excellent catering facilities, should be made through Mrs Maureen Fletcher.

The next issue of the news-letter will be out at the end of March, so if you wish us to publish details of any village activities, please send them to us by March 15th at the latest.

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