

# The Villager

A Magazine for Avening, Cherington  
and Nags Head



**March 2015**

*[editors@acvillager.co.uk](mailto:editors@acvillager.co.uk)*

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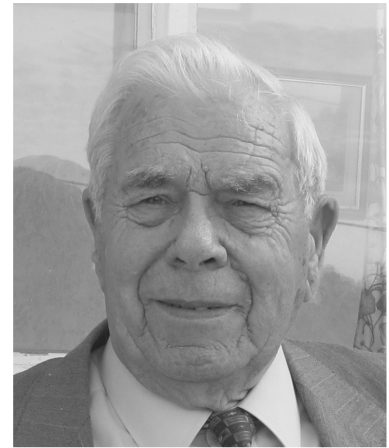


# March 2015

We hope you enjoyed the inaugural edition of the new look Villager Magazine delivered to all houses in Avening, Cherington and Nags Head. We'd like to thank everyone who gave us feedback, comments and new ideas.

As a result of a suggestion from one reader you will see we now have a 'Small Ads' section, where you can advertise those things that have been hanging around the house and you've been meaning to find a new home for! There is no charge for this - just contact us by email or phone.

As we have mentioned previously, The Villager is very much a joint effort, and an important member of the team is our proof reader, Riley Vincent (until recently aided by his wife Joyce, who is unfortunately no



**Riley**

longer well enough to help). Not much slips past his gimlet eye, despite the fact that in April he will be celebrating his 92nd birthday!

We are always happy to welcome new members to our team (many hands make light work, as they say) so if you are interested in helping out in any way, do let us know.

*The Villager Editors*

**Don't forget!**



**Sunday 29th March**

## The Villager Magazine

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Avening Primary School	Jane Rushton	01453 833191
Avening Silver Band	Jim Hill	01453 834438
Avening Sunday School / Messy	Peter Quinell	01453 833251
Avening Bell Tower Captain	David Govier	01453 882914
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Cotswold District Councillor	Jim Parsons	01453 836596
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Over 60s Lunch Club	Christine Howell	01453 833246
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Reader, Avening and Cherington Churches	Derrick Pierce	01453 835090
Rector	Rev. Poppy Hughes	01666 502333
Stroud Hospital	Reception	3000 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)**

# 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
Lent Discussion Group	Monday	7.30pm	The Rectory 5 Orchard Fields	Rev Peter 01453 833251
Cherington PC	4th Tuesday Bi-monthly	6.30pm	Village Hall	Frances 01453767384
Youth Club	Tuesday	6.15 - 7.45pm	Memorial Hall	Cassie 01453 834182
Bell Ringing	Tuesday	7.30pm - 9.00pm	Church Bell Tower	David 01453 882914
Line Dancing	Tuesday	7.45 - 10.30pm	Social Club	Mel 01453 833760
Yoga	Wednesday	7.30pm - 9.00pm	Memorial Hall	Elles 0781 555 2952
Over 60s Lunch Club	1st Wednesday each month	12.30pm	Social Club	Christine 01453 833246
Dial-a-Ride	Thursday	9.30am		Liz Truman 01666 502514
WI	2nd Thursday each month	7.30pm	Memorial Hall	Maisie 01453 834679
Avening PC	3rd Thursday each month	7.30pm	Memorial Hall	Caroline 01285 380041
Avening Art and craft Group	Thursday	10.00am	Longmans Barn	Mick 01453 836318
Avening Angels Choir	Sunday	4-30pm	Various	Derrick 01453 835090

## 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**

### We Need Your Help!

Do you like the new look Villager and is it good to get it free each month? If you would like this to continue then we need your help. Advertisements help to offset the costs incurred but businesses will only continue to advertise where they can see an advantage. So if you use someone for the first time having seen their ad in the Villager, be sure to let them know - and if you find a tradesman who does a good job, suggest that they may like to advertise in the Villager too. It is not that expensive and can reap great rewards.

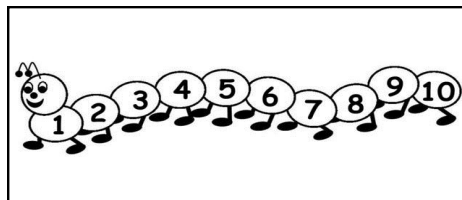
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## AVENING FETE 2015

THIS YEAR THE ART AND CRAFT EXHIBITION IN HOLY CROSS CHURCH WILL BE OPEN FROM 10-00am TO 5-00PM ON SUNDAY JUNE 7th

TABLE SPACE WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR ENTRANTS TO EXHIBIT AND SELL THEIR OWN PAINTINGS - CRAFTS - CARDS - SEWING - JEWELLERY

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THE DUCKS WILL BE BACK ALONG WITH ALL OF THE USUAL FUN OF THE FETE

FUN DOG SHOW - ICE CREAMS - BOTTLE STALL

**SUNDAY JUNE 7th**

# Letter From Avening Parish Council Leader



## **50 shades of grey!**

I'm not referring to the much hyped film currently in the cinemas (but perhaps I'll come back to that later in the year if the cinema club decide to feature it), but rather to the piecemeal repairs and patchwork of assorted tarmac blobs that make up most of our local roads and lanes. The winter weather hasn't been too bad this time around, but the roads are still suffering from decades of neglect. I've mentioned before that the PC work closely with Highways, but with £100m backlog, we will inevitably be well down the list of priorities. That said, if we all keep reporting the issues we spot - by phone or on line (details on the website) - we will get the worst ones fixed. So, let's save our quivering bodies and mild pain for the film, rather than in the car driving to see it!

## **Publicising events – we love to be liked**

At the time of writing, we have just topped the milestone of 100 'likes' on our new Facebook page – pretty good in just a couple of weeks. This is a site for everyone in Avening, and is ideal for publicising your upcoming events – do get friends and family to Like us so that we can reach as many people as possible. Details of any items on Facebook, and much more can of course be seen on the website.

In a more analogue format, posters on telegraph poles and in the village notice boards are a useful way to highlight events, but please remember to take them down after the event.

I'll report back on the outcome of the shop meeting next time but a quick reminder that the village hall meeting is on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at the Bell.

## **Love thy neighbourly**

I have had some good feedback about my letter in the January edition, and some recent examples of 'it's good to talk' have overcome some minor annoyances around the village – these mainly came under the heading of over prodigious vegetation, and are easily solved. More difficult to resolve are issues around encroachment of land, or inappropriate constructions – with the planning laws now greatly relaxed, it is all of our responsibilities to consider impacts on our neighbours when thinking about undertaking work outside. This includes the size and position of any construction, and how much noise we make when building it – just think how you would feel if it were your neighbour doing the work.

Do you know of any sites around the village that might be suitable for one or two commercial vehicles to park overnight? Please contact me or the clerk to discuss suitability.

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



# Letter From the Parish Priest



Have you noticed how the commercial world is focusing more and more on an increasing number of 'Special Days' in the year to encourage us to spend our money? Ever since I started courting my first serious girlfriend (we were married nearly 44 years ago!) I would give her a card and a few Spring flowers on the Feast of St Valentine, the patron saint of lovers. When I went shopping in a local supermarket on the 14<sup>th</sup> February I was almost overwhelmed by the promotion of 'Valentine's Day.' Heart shaped cakes, chocolates, and even the pat of butter in the 'meal deal' was in the shape of a heart!

On the 15<sup>th</sup> March the Church celebrates 'Mothering Sunday,' more commonly known as Mothers Day in the secular world. This special day is also known as mid-Lent Sunday, or Refreshment Sunday when we can relax our Lenten fast. Mothering Sunday was originally a time when those in service and apprentices were given the day off to visit their mother in the family home. As the young people journeyed homewards along the lanes they would pick wild flowers from the hedgerows and make them into small posies to give to their mother. This tradition of giving flowers to our mother continues into the present era, although we are no longer permitted to pick wild flowers! We too will be following the tradition of remembering our own mother at our services in Avening and Cherington by presenting them with a posy of flowers, an expression of our love for our mother.

A lesser known tradition that was established as long ago as the seventeenth century was for representatives from all the parish churches in the diocese to visit the cathedral: known as the 'Mother Church' of the diocese. The cathedral is so named as it is the building where the 'cathedra' or Bishop's seat is to be found. Our local cathedral is Gloucester, where there will be a focus on the real meaning of Mothering Sunday at the service of Choral Evensong which is at 3:00pm.

In the past on Mothering Sunday at Avening, at the end of the morning service, the congregation have formed a large circle around the exterior of the church by linking hands to show their love for their local church. This is an ancient custom and was originally known as 'Church Clypping.' It would be good to reintroduce this tradition again at Holy Cross, but we will need many people to make it possible! Do come and join us on the 15<sup>th</sup> March, as we give thanks for our own mother and Mother Church.

Here's a special prayer for the day.....

*Thank you God for the love of our mothers:  
Thank you God for their care and concern:  
Thank you God for the joys they have shared with us;  
Thank you God for the pains they have borne for us;  
Thank you God for all that they give us:  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

With my love and prayers.

Below is a letter from the Bishop of Tewkesbury which he has asked should be included in this edition of The Villager.

**Peter**

### **A Pastoral Letter from The Bishop of Tewkesbury**

I am very aware that the last year has been a difficult time of change and transition for the Churches in Avening and Cherington. The retirement of a much loved priest is always difficult, even more so when that priest continues to live in the parish where they have served so faithfully for many years.

However some months ago concerns were raised with me which led to a series of meetings and discussions. The result of this process was my decision to withdraw my Permission-to-Officiate from your former Priest-in-Charge. This decision was not taken lightly and it was made with a very heavy heart. I know that it has been the cause of much discussion within the villages and I have received many letters as a result. Sadly much of this discussion (as reflected in the letters to me) has been based on misinformation.

It would not be appropriate for me to give details of all the reasons behind my decision. Suffice it to say, that my concern was to follow agreed guidelines within the Church of England (outlined in *Guidelines for the Professional Conduct of Clergy*) and allow the new Priest-in-Charge space and time to develop his own ministry. My decision will be reviewed after six months and it is my sincere hope that Permission-to-Officiate can then be restored allowing for ministry once again in other parishes.

In the meantime, please be assured of my prayers for you all, and my sincere desire that all the people of God in these villages may know God's peace and work together for the good of God's church.

**Martyn  
Bishop of Tewkesbury**



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## CHERINGTON EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March**  
**Annual Village Litter Pick**



It's that time again, when we call on all residents and families to help us clear the verges leading into our beautiful village.

We will meet at the Village Hall at 9.45 to start at 10 a.m. Equipment provided.

If you are kind enough to do some of this before the Saturday please can you let us know where you have been clearing  
cheringtonparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk or leave a message on 01453 834805.

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April**  
**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
**Village Hall 10.30 a.m.**

This is the Annual Parish Council Meeting where we report on the years work and plans for the future but it is also an opportunity for you to have your say. As many of our residents are not around during the week we have decided to hold this this year at the weekend Refreshments provided.

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July**  
**CHERINGTON SHOW**  
**More news on this later but ..... put it in your diary !**

### **AN APPEAL FOR GARDENS**

**Would you like to open your garden on**  
**24<sup>th</sup> May**

**as part of the Avening Open Gardens 2015, in aid of local**  
**charities?**

If so, please call  
Marilyn on 835820  
or Anthea on 835287





## **Avening Village Pumps**

**Robert (Bob) Hill drawing water from the pump in Woodstock Lane Avening in the 1940/50's. (Photo supplied by Bob's son Jim Hill.)**

**The Parish Council will be updating us on the Village Pump Project soon.**

### **Please Note:**

**Due to the extra time needed to prepare, print and distribute over 500 copies of the Villager, the deadline for contributions is now the 18th of each month.**

**Many thanks to all our regular contributors for their valuable input - it is much appreciated**

## **AVENING SOCIAL CLUB LTD**

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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!

# Avening W.I.

2015 is the centenary year of the Women's Institute. The very first one was formed in Anglesey. There are a number of celebrations planned, the first of which is already in progress. This is a baton run all around the U.K's towns and villages which have their own W.I. branch. The baton will arrive in Avening at the Social Club early evening on Sunday 22nd March. The Avening W.I. will pass it on to Tetbury early on the 23rd March. We would welcome any villagers who would like to come out and support this event.

The February walk all around the fields surrounding Tetbury was well attended and fortunately stayed dry. There were a number of really tricky and slippery stiles on route and some of the 2 and 4 legged members found them very challenging. We all had an excellent lunch afterwards at the Trouble House. We will be having another walk this month and this one will be around Woodchester with lunch at the Ram.

This month's speaker was Neil Alcock who is a potter and has a studio near Winchcombe. He brought along a number of finished pieces and also his wheel and fresh clay. During his talk he made 2 beautiful pieces which he will give to us when they have been glazed and fired. He explained how he became interested in pottery and the process of making pots from raw clay to the finished article. He was very interesting and answered many questions from the members.

The County Federation has organised golf lessons for interested members so in the next few months a number of Avening members can be seen honing their skills on the Minchinhampton New Course. We are always game to try something new!

*Gwyneth Simpson*

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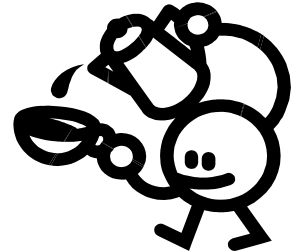
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# Avening School

## A Very Special Visit

With the arrival of spring came the perfect opportunity for the children in KS1 to get the binoculars out as they took part in the Big School Bird watch. It is amazing how many birds can be spotted around the school site. The list this year has included finches, crows and the odd heron! Just before half term, we were visited by a Barn Owl in class. This was an amazing opportunity to get really close to one of these beautiful creatures and we all learnt so much from the visit.

The children in KS2 have been experiencing the wonder of theatre with a Y5&6 trip to Bristol Hippodrome to watch **War Horse** based on the bestselling Michael Morpurgo novel, while Y3&4 visited a local school to watch a Bristol Old Vic production of **Julius Caesar** to tie in with their term topic - The Romans.

E-Safety has been at the top of our agenda recently. On 10th February we celebrated Internet Safety Day in school. This included presentations by children from The Owls class in assembly as well as spending time on important e-safety learning in each class. To help us at Avening, we have our very own wise owl – Edward, who has top tips for keeping e-safe. You can meet him in the e-safety zone on our website!

On a sporty note, children have been busy with friendly cross country races in preparation for the district races held in Cirencester this month and a magnificent performance from our Gymnasts who took part in a recent competition held at Deer Park School. This month will also be a busy one for our footballers who have four matches coming up.

In other news, our top playground has been resurfaced with a sports surface and we now have rebound walls, goals and hoops. This has enhanced the sporting facilities we have and we are looking forward to the next phase of the work, which will include a canopy for shade. We are also in the process of planning the refurbishment of the junior toilets – work planned to be undertaken over the summer. Watch this space for 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.***



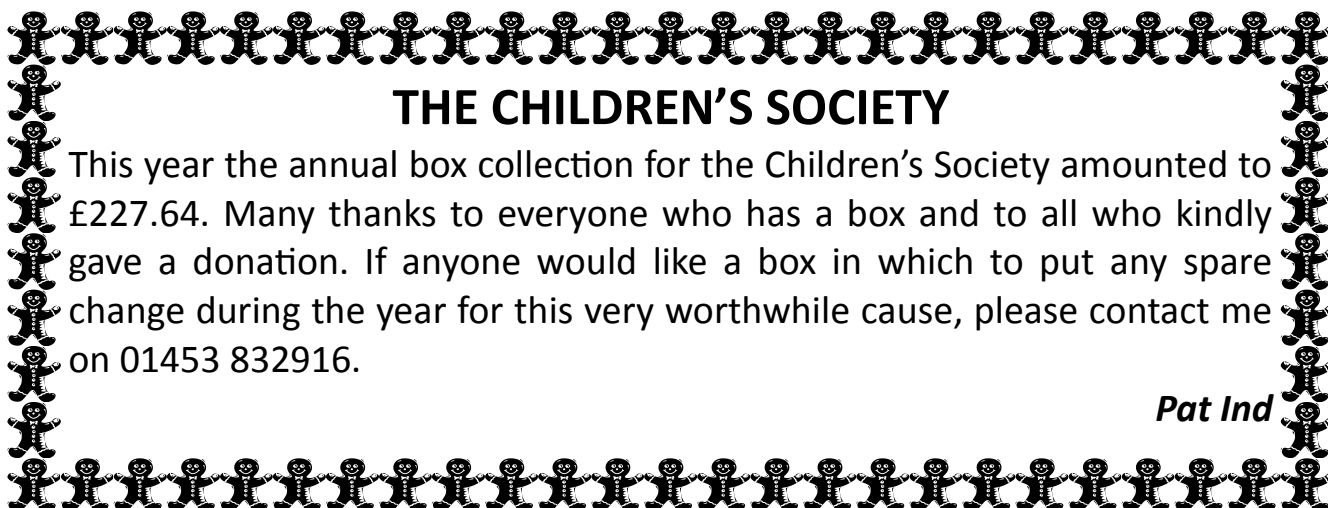
## Would you like to become a School Governor?

The Governors of Avening School are looking to co-opt three new Governors to join them. Under recent legislation, we are currently undergoing what is called re-constitution and this includes some new descriptions for Governors. Our Parent Governors are elected on a four yearly cycle and our current Parent Governors will continue until the end of their term office.

However the Governing Body can co-opt governors who have certain skills and knowledge that would be helpful in carrying out our statutory duties.

The skills we are particularly looking for are in the area of Special Educational Needs, Legal (eg public sector equality/data protection/complaints procedures), and IT skills.

If you feel you might be interested or would like to know more, please contact either Stuart Richards (Chair) or Jane Rushton (Head teacher) via the school email address (admin @avening.gloucs.sch.uk) or by telephone (01453 833191).



### THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

This year the annual box collection for the Children's Society amounted to £227.64. Many thanks to everyone who has a box and to all who kindly gave a donation. If anyone would like a box in which to put any spare change during the year for this very worthwhile cause, please contact me on 01453 832916.

*Pat Ind*

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# 100 Years Ago: Avening's War

## March 1915

Those of you who read last November's Villager will recall the speculation as to why Fred Fletcher made the Grenadier Guards his choice of Regiment when he enlisted in October 1907.

Well, the same speculation must apply to William (Bill) Richings who joined the same regiment in March 1911. Bill was born in Westonbirt in April 1892 and was still living there at the time of the 1901 Census. However, by 1910 Bill's father had moved his family to Avening, living at The Rising Sun public house on Old Hill.

Fred Fletcher lived in a cottage immediately behind the Bell Inn when he finished his three years service and became a Reservist in October 1910. At that time Bill was 18 and he and Fred must have known each other by the early part of 1911 which is when Bill enlisted. His chosen Regiment? The Grenadier Guards!! He was 18 years and 321 days old, weighed 145 lbs and was 5 feet, 9 inches tall when he had his final attestation at Reading on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March. He too, would have signed on for 3 years service and 9 years on the reserve.

Having completed the former, he returned to Avening in March 1914. Perhaps a couple of drinks with his old pal, Fred, in the Bell?

On August the 4<sup>th</sup>, 1914 both Fred and Bill would have received a telegram worded something like "Report to Unit forthwith" and I have no doubt that both men would have met to discuss their response.

Several questions would be asked. As the only method of transport to London was by train – did they leave from Nailsworth or Tetbury? Did they pay for their

own tickets and receive compensation later? The photograph published in November's Villager showed Grenadier Guards Reservists queuing for their medical examinations and here is a picture of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion prior to them leaving for France, arriving there on the 26<sup>th</sup> of August. Because Bill had been so recently a full time serving man he was allocated to the 2<sup>nd</sup>




Battalion and he would have been one of those in this photograph, taken on the 15<sup>th</sup> of August, 1914.

Fred, however, having had a longer interval since his service, was given more time in re-training and left for the BEF with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion on the 4<sup>th</sup> of October. He survived only just over three weeks.

Bill, however, stayed with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion until he died on the 17<sup>th</sup> of March 1915 during the battle of Neuve Chappelle, and he was buried at the Guards Cemetery, Windy Corner, Cuinchy. His parents received the knowledge of his death on the 29<sup>th</sup>. In his Will, Bill left all his property to his father.

Raise a glass or give him a couple of minutes thought on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

*Fred Vening*

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01453 833474 for further details.**

# **Avening Youth Club**

**The Youth Club meets every Tuesday evening**

**Avening Memorial Hall**

**6.15 to 7.45 pm**

March 3rd: Young Glos ( to be confirmed)

See you all then!

The children are working up to an award night at Easter where parents will be invited to watch children receive awards for fitness efforts, artistic skills kindness, etc and maybe the parents will be challenged to game of dodge ball!

*Cassie*

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# Letters to the Editors

A personal response to the letter from the Chairman of Avening Parish Council.

We should not see division where it does not exist: people cannot be defined by where they live: no us and them.

It takes all sorts to make a community, not just those who are able to volunteer or seek power, but also those who are not able to participate but perhaps enjoy the peace and tranquillity that village life offers; there is room for all.

*Rima Jones, 17, High Street, Avening  
(neither north nor south nor east nor west)*

*The Editors are always happy to receive and print letters of concern or interest to the people of Avening and Cherington, but reserve the right not to publish if we consider they are inappropriate or offensive. We stress that letters represent the opinion of the writer and not necessarily that of the Editors or the Villager Magazine.*



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# Avening Playgroup

In October we were visited by Ofsted and were very pleased with our report. Here are some quotes from the report.

‘Children are motivated learners and progress well as a result of the good quality teaching given by the staff’.

‘The friendly, caring environment gives children a sense of security and allows them the freedom to explore the play areas inside and outdoors’.

‘Staff support children to develop independence in their health and self-care. They exercise regularly and learn the importance of good hygiene and good nutrition’.

‘The educational programmes have depth and breadth across the seven areas of learning. Staff provide interesting and challenging experiences that meet the needs of the children’.

‘The children are developing very good communication and language skills and increasing their confidence as speakers’.

‘The children are acquiring the skills, attitudes and dispositions they need to be ready for school’.

We are currently trying work out the numbers of children who will be attending our playgroup next year. If you have a child who will be three before 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016, and would like them to join our playgroup, please can you ring us any term time morning on 01453 832695. We will then add their names to our waiting list. Thank you.

***Debbie Brown***

## **Raising Funds for Playgroup**

We have a recycling bin at playgroup for old clothes and shoes. If you have any that you want to get rid of, please bring them along in a plastic bag any week day morning during term time when we are open. Please do not leave them outside playgroup.

We are also collecting vouchers from Sainsburys. These can be posted into our post box at any time.

Thank you very much for your support.

# Avening Film Club

## THE HUNDRED- FOOT JOURNEY

Fri 20th March 7.30 at Avening Social Club

**Cert:** PG – **Run time:** 2 hr. 2 min

**Drama** - mild bad language, threat

**Cast & Crew:** Helen Mirren, Om Puri, Manish Dayal, Charlotte Lebon, Rohan Chand, Juhi Chawla, Amit Shah, Michel Blanc

**Director:** Lasse Hallström

In "The Hundred-Foot Journey," Hassan Kadam (Manish Dayal) is a culinary ingénue with the gastronomic equivalent of perfect pitch. Displaced from their native India, the Kadam family, led by Papa (Om Puri), settles in the quaint village of Saint-Antonin-Noble-Val in the south of France. Filled with charm, it is both picturesque and elegant - the ideal place to settle down and open an Indian restaurant, the Maison Mumbai. That is, until the chilly chef proprietress of Le Saule Pleureur, a Michelin starred, classical French restaurant run by Madame Mallory (Academy Award (R)-winner Helen Mirren), gets wind of it. Her icy protests against the new Indian restaurant a hundred feet from her own, escalate to all out war between the two establishments - until Hassan's passion for French haute cuisine and for Mme. Mallory's enchanting sous chef, Marguerite (Charlotte Le Bon), combine with his mysteriously delicious talent to weave magic between their two cultures and imbue Saint-Antonin with the flavors of life that even Mme. Mallory cannot ignore. At first Mme. Mallory's culinary rival, she eventually recognizes Hassan's gift as a chef and takes him under her wing.

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## Avening Book Club

Due to decreasing numbers the Book Club, which met in The Bell once a month, has sadly had to close.

## 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,  
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Members of the Society of Will Writers



# Diary of a Self-Build



## Part 3

Some friends of ours, who are a few months ahead of us in their self-build adventure, often give us the benefit of their experiences. On the subject of costs, they have observed that on some deals you win, and some cost you more than expected.

So far, most of our costs have been greater than our estimates, mainly due to increased specifications – this is not unusual, but when available cash and credit cards are running out (still no mortgage funds available!), it takes a bit of creativity to pay all the bills. We had a minor triumph this week when we managed to ‘save’ over £10,000 – this is not a real saving though, as the unexpected costs were for tanking arrangements (effectively a posh damp proof course) that our architect had not previously specified. After some frantic calls and site meetings, the architect took the advice of our builder and building suppliers, that the alternative arrangements would work just as well. That was a good thing, as the foundations had equally high specifications, with enough concrete and steel to build a block of flats! We’ll call that one a draw.

We are hoping the mortgage will come through at the end of this month, because we haven’t paid for the trucks that took away the spoil yet, and I don’t want to be on the wrong side of them!!

On the plus side, the weather has been kind, and our brilliant builder, Shaun, has completed the excavations, filled the footings, wired up the (considerable) steelwork, and is about to lay the top slab. Shaun has started to give us ‘homework’ now – a couple of weeks ago it was hard labour, moving hard-core into the trench, and next week we are scheduled to paint waterproofing onto the retaining wall. All good fun though.

We had some tension when the first concrete was due to be pumped – the pump was in position; Shaun was poised; the first mixer arrived... and blocked the pump! After some head scratching, and calls to base, the load was rejected. Thankfully the next three were fine, and the footings were completed.

The remainder of this month sees the finalisation of the timber frame designs, so hopefully that will be built next month in the factory, and shipped to us towards the end of March – then the fun really starts!

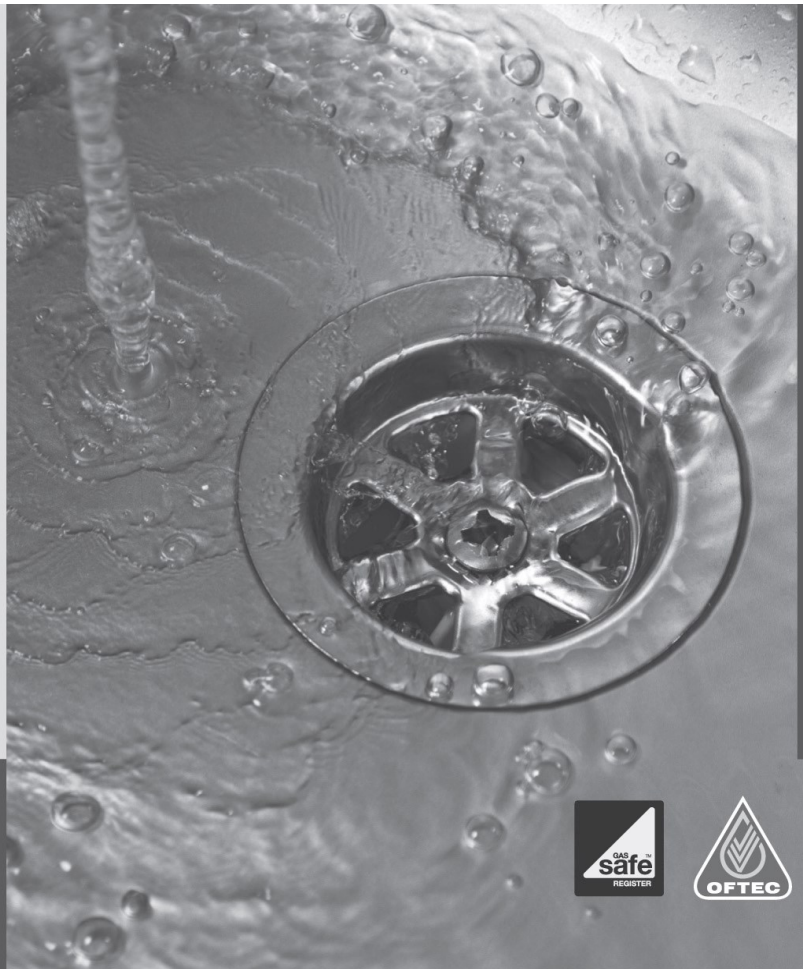




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# Down to Earth



It was wonderful to listen to Dan Pearson being interviewed as a castaway on Desert Island Discs last month. (Listen again to the podcast!) As one of our best young garden designers, he has been at the forefront of a movement towards romanticism and sustainability. I first came across his work in a beautifully photographed book about the first significant garden he designed, that of Frances Mossman at Home Farm. After a ten year break, occasioned by the reluctance to produce a garden with no after-life (post-Chelsea), he will once again be exhibiting at the Chelsea Flower Show in May; this time, the garden will be carefully dismantled and reassembled elsewhere. Perhaps we all need to be more conscientious about recycling and sustainability.

When asked for a tip for gardeners, Dan Pearson advised that we 'work with the things that [we] really love' ... and 'grow them as well as [we] possibly can'. I like that sentiment. I recently bought two plants because, soppy as it may sound, they captured my heart. One is the *skimmia x confusa* 'Kew Green' from the online nursery, 'Crocus'. No common *skimmia*, this. It has luminous, mid-green leaves with white to creamy yellow flowers which are subtly fragrant. The other was a pot of *iris reticulata* 'Katharine Hodgkin' from Colesbourne Park. This is a small, early-flowering iris with the prettiest face of yellow and mauve with purple veining. Now my challenge is to 'place' each plant. It really pays to give consideration to location and to research carefully the individual light and drainage requirements. Both the iris 'Kew green' and the *skimmia* 'Katharine Hodgkin' have been accorded the RHS Award of Garden Merit (AGM), which means they have been judged to be 'good doers' in the garden. It is a notification worth looking out for. Trust in the experts!

Early spring is the time to get busy with that pruning saw. According to the Cotswold garden designer and writer, Mary Keen, the success of a garden is down to 40% design and



Spontaneous layering

60% maintenance. Shrubs and small trees that are expected to perform in a limited and defined space will require attention in their dormant season, if they are not to outgrow their allotted patch. And it is not just the outline shape that requires pruning. Congestion must be dealt with; dead, weak or crossing branches or stems should be cut out at the base. For plant-specific details, always consult the RHS site.

Sometimes an old, overgrown and straggly specimen just has to go, but there may be a surprise hidden in the undergrowth. Layering – bending over a stem, weighing it down to the ground with a stone and waiting until it has rooted – is a known method of propagation. Sometimes layering occurs spontaneously, as it did with my *viburnum* x *bodnantense*. Around half a dozen stems had rooted



Stourhead: Polypody fern on overhead bough.

where they touched the ground and already grown into sizeable plants. So no tears were shed when the parent plant had to go; replacements were to hand.

Let us give thanks for ... bankers. As appropriate. The iconic landscape garden at Stourhead was the creation, in the 1740s, of Henry Hoare II of Hoare's bank (still in existence today). We revisited it under a cloudless blue sky in early February. It never fails to impress. Yet, I am aware of the enormous task faced by the National Trust in managing visitor numbers, ensuring that undergrowth does not turn into overgrowth, maintaining the lake and dam. (The lake was being partially drained for essential maintenance work at the time of our visit.) Influences on the design included the landscape paintings of Nicholas Poussin, Claude Lorrain and Gaspard Dughet; the temples would have been observed when Henry went on the Grand Tour. The circuit of the lake symbolized Aeneas' descent into the underworld (from Virgil's Aeneid) and planting was designed to evoke the passage from light into darkness and darkness into light.

**Marilyn Jones**

## KOALAS AND KANGAROOS



Arriving in Perth, Western Australia, with the temperature hitting 43°C couldn't have been more of a contrast to the minus temperature I had left behind in Cherington 48 hours previously. This was December 30<sup>th</sup> but the temperature on New Year's Eve was a much more respectable heat and we decided to go off to the local rodeo about an hour's drive away. I know we've all spent the New Year period in various ways and in different places but I have to say attending a rodeo is something I would never have imagined I'd be doing. It seemed like the whole of Western Australia had turned up for it and one had to admire the sheer guts and determination of the children – ranging from the under-elevens to under-eighteens, performing on their

highly-charged ponies – to the adult competitors on their massive steers and bulls all giving an impressive and, sometimes, quite terrifying performances.

So ended another year and the first day of the New Year was also spent with animals but of a rather different kind, namely at a wonderful wild-life park where we all wandered at leisure amongst kangaroos and their babies all seemingly remarkably unphased and relaxed in spite of the intrusion of us humans into their territory. Needless to say the stars of the day were, of course, the koalas in their wooded sanctuary. It took a bit of time to accustom one's eyes to these funny little furry bundles fast asleep and perched very precariously on the branches of eucalyptus trees. Sensibly they sleep during the daytime and wake up in the evening to start tucking in to their diet of leaves. I remember, some years ago when Geoffrey and I were doing a farming tour of Eastern Australia, we visited a koala sanctuary outside Adelaide and as I was handed a baby koala to hold the keeper also gave me a towel. "You'll need that," she said, "it's bound to wee on you." It did.

The last 48 hours seemed to be a bit like a re-incarnation of animal farm – horses, bulls, kangaroos and koalas but our next animal visit was rather special. A kangaroo rescue centre run by a friend who cared for these babies whose mothers had been run over .

We were given the rewarding task of bottle-feeding two of them, aged about seven months – one very skittish, rapidly downing his feed and then hopping round and round before finally collapsing in an exhausted heap. The other one was much more relaxed and I was able to pick him up and give him a cuddle – photo to prove it.

Today a very different scenario. 13,000 head of cattle in what is known as a feed lot and all emanating from the Northern Territory to be checked and fattened-up for exporting to Indonesia, Malaya and Vietnam. An amazing sight to see so many different breeds of cattle all looking so healthy in spite of living out in the blazing sun.

A day or so later the temperature, once again, hit the headlines but we had already decided to go off to the coast and do some swimming which we did in wonderful clear blue, warm water with, I'm pleased to say, not a shark in sight! Not so fortunate was the fact that, with everything tinder dry and a fairly strong breeze blowing, it was the classic recipe for forest fires which is exactly what happened. As we drove back from the coast we could see the specially-equipped helicopters flying to and fro picking up water and depositing it onto the huge burning area, the plumes of smoke rising up in the distance and shrouding the normally blue sky in a heavy, smoky mist. That particular fire was joined by two or three smaller ones over the next few days and one was very conscious of the smell of smoke in the air – no wonder it's the one thing that the Australians dread more than anything else. Their houses, their animals, their crops can be devastated within seconds.

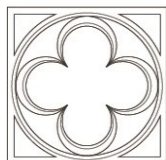
Time was running out for me but, added to all the other wonderful things I'd seen and done, my final few hours before flying home were spent alongside the Swan River which runs through the heart of Perth and is famous for its black swans. Last year, when I was there, not a black swan to be seen but this time – as a farewell gesture – they really pulled out all the stops. Males and females with their broods of cygnets were all milling around on the edge of the river and put on quite a show for us, flapping their shiny black wings and enjoying the rays of the evening sun. It was a really lovely, magical way to say farewell, once again, to the city of Perth and indeed to Western Australia.

And my thanks, once again, must go to my wonderful host and hostess who put up with me for two and a half weeks, looked after me so well and gave me such an idyllic time – Liz and John Bate-Williams. I think, I hope, they knew how much I loved my time with them but just in case they didn't, they do now.

**Ann Tarlton**

*Many thanks to Ann for this fascinating account- and don't forget, if you've been somewhere interesting let us know - we'd love to hear from you. Eds.*

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## WHAT DOES A PARISH COUNCILLOR DO?

The general impression is that a Parish Councillor just attends council meetings run along the lines of an exclusive private club that members are invited to join. Unfortunately, the media (Pagford, springs to mind !) has done little to dispel this !

However, the duties and pleasure of being a local councillor are many and varied but it is the ordinary day-to-day contact with local people in their own community that is the most important part of being a councillor. Not to mention the ability to help improve local facilities and the lives of your neighbours.

Councillors are elected to serve for a 4-year term, which we are all about to do on 7 May this year. Avening will have 9 seats available so if there are more than 9 nominations, there will be an election. Otherwise those people who are nominated will automatically be elected unopposed. If there are any seats left vacant then those Councillors in place (provided that they are quorate) will be able to co-opt to fill the vacancies.

Once elected Councillors will have to sign 2 documents:

- an Acceptance of Office and agreement to abide by the Council's Code of Conduct. This sets down a Councillor's undertaking to observe an ethical Code of Conduct when dealing with matters on behalf of the community.
- the Register of Interests detailing their own and their spouse's / partner's interests within the Parish.

Once these are done it's finally time to get to work and the first meeting will be the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council at which the Chairman is elected.

One of the most important tasks of a Parish Councillor is listening to and understanding the views of people in their community. Councillors draw on local knowledge to represent their community in responding to such things as local planning applications and policies developed by local and national governments. Councillors represent the voice of their community as a whole as well as being aware of specific minority needs.

Councillors may also be asked to serve on certain groups or attend functions on behalf of the parish council. Councillors act as ambassadors for their community keeping everyone aware of local needs and concerns and reporting back on District/Unitary, County and regional changes.

In order to carry out their duties a councillor agrees to attend all meetings (where reasonably possible) that he or she is summoned to. In Avening the Parish Council meets once a month on the third Thursday except in August. In

addition, the Finance Group meets approximately twice per year to oversee the budget for the current year and develop a new budget for the following year. The Parish Council also facilitates the Annual Village Meeting.

Through all of these functions councillors will draw on their own skills and experiences and it is the sharing of these that makes a strong team. Parish Councils provide a focus for the community to identify concerns and projects and endeavour to solve them locally. Our Parish Council is currently looking at ways of improving local facilities by supporting the Playing Field Management Committee, the Memorial Hall Committee and interested residents who wish to provide a village shop. Councillors working as a team will need to deal with employment issues, budgeting, asset management, staff management, project management or grant funding and probably lots more if they are creative and involved. Councillors are there to consider information gathered and make a group decision on all matters. No individual councillor is responsible for any single decision. This is democracy at its best and training is available to any councilor who feels they will benefit from it.

If you would like more information about being a Councillor please contact the Parish Clerk.



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# Cherington Parish Council

## PLANNING APPLICATIONS

### *New Applications:*

15/0007/FUL 5

Aston Farm Cottages, Cherington

Replacement of existing detached house with new dwelling

### *Decided Applications:*

14/05156/FUL and 14/05541/LBC

The Studio, Westrip Farm House

Erection of single storey extension and alterations and extensions to an existing ancillary residential building - **Permit**

For further information and details of planning applications please visit [planning@cotswold.gov.uk](mailto:planning@cotswold.gov.uk)

## ROAD RECLASSIFICATION

**Definitive Map Modification Order application to reclassify bridleway NCH12 to a Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT), Lockstone Bottom Barn to Yewtree Plantation – Cherington**

Gloucestershire County Council has received an application to reclassify an existing right of way to the status of a BOAT.

Any comments on the proposal can be sent to Elaine Hopkinson at the Highways Record Office, Shire Hall, Gloucester, tel. 01452 328984 or email [modificationorders@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:modificationorders@gloucestershire.gov.uk) for more information.

Comments need to be submitted by **March 20<sup>th</sup> 2015**

## ANNUAL LITTER PICK

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 10.00am – Meet at the Village Hall**

Can't believe its nearly a year since we did a group litter pick in the village!

Last year saw tyres, baskets, wheels and at least 15 bags of assorted debris being cleared from Cherington's roadsides and footpaths.



The weather on the last litter pick was great and everyone seemed to enjoy a gentle stroll around the village, litter pickers and black sacks in hand.

Anyone volunteering to litter pick will be loaned high viz vests, litterpickers and gloves, all provided by Cotswold District Council. If you'd like to join in again this year then please wear waterproof footwear and suitable clothing

Light refreshments will be available in the village hall.

### **ROADSIDE VERGES AND PASSING PLACES**

A number of issues relating to roadside verges and passing places in and around the parish have recently been brought to the attention of the parish council. The county councillor, Tony Hicks, who is the county councillor linked to the Parish, will be looking into these issues with the Highways Department and reporting back on outcomes at future Parish Council meetings.

### **PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS FOR 2015**

The date of the next Parish Council meeting will be Tuesday March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6.30pm in the Village Hall.

#### **Dates of future meetings:**

Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup> at 10.30 am – Annual Parish Meeting

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May at 6.30pm – Annual Council Meeting

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July at 6.30pm

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September at 6.30pm

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at 6.30pm

All residents of the Parish are welcome to attend parish meetings. 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**

### **Future of Avening Memorial Hall**

Following a very lively meeting on 3 February at The Bell, the next meeting will be held on

**Monday, 2 March in The Bell at 7.15 pm**

For more information contact Tony Slater (669930), Mick Williamson (836318) or the Parish Clerk

# Avening Parish Council



## PLANNING APPLICATIONS

*Decided Applications:*

14/05282/FUL

Overdale Tetbury Hill Avening Tetbury Gloucestershire GL8 8LT

Erection of single storey front extension

**Permitted 30 January 2015**

All Planning Applications are available of CDC's website:  
[www.cotswold.gov.uk](http://www.cotswold.gov.uk)

## TOURISM BUSINESSES URGED TO HELP PROMOTE THE COTSWOLDS

Cotswolds Tourism is a new Destination Management Organisation (DMO) whose sole aim is to increase both domestic and international tourism to the Cotswolds. As part of an ambitious project to engage with both existing Cotswolds Tourism members, and anyone who may want to join the DMO, a series of business engagement sessions have been planned starting at the end of February.

Thursday, 5 March. 10am, 2pm or 6pm at The Great Hall at Westonbirt Arboretum, Tetbury, GL8 8QS

**For all enquiries, please contact:** Susie Hunt, Cotswolds Tourism Partnership

Email: [cotswoldstourism@cotswold.gov.uk](mailto:cotswoldstourism@cotswold.gov.uk) Tel: 01285 623000

## RIVER THAMES VOLUNTEERS

The Environment Agency, which is navigation authority for the Thames, is now recruiting for the 2015 season and looking for volunteers who can commit to assisting at least one day a week between May and the end of September. Volunteers can agree their days with lock keepers but need to be available from 10 to 5. Volunteering is a great way to meet people and to find out more about the Thames, its history, wildlife and management. At the same time volunteers know that they are doing something worthwhile that is really appreciated.

For more information contact: Demetri Somarakis, River Thames Volunteer Team – Waterways, Environment Agency, Red Kite House, Howbery Park, Crowmarsh Gifford, Wallingford, OX10 8BD

Email: [thames.volunteers@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:thames.volunteers@environment-agency.gov.uk)

Tel: 01491 828360

## NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Will be on **Thursday, 19 MARCH 2015 at 7.30 pm** in the **Memorial Hall**. Parish Council meetings are usually held on the third Thursday of the month. All Are Welcome.

The Parish Council address is:

**Caroline Braidwood, Parish Clerk, 77 Pheasant Way, Cirencester,  
Gloucestershire GL7 1BQ**

**Tel: 01285 380041      Email: parishclerk@avening-pc.gov.uk**

**PARLIAMENTARY AND LOCAL ELECTIONS** will be taking place on 7 May. To enable you to vote you **MUST** be included on the Electoral Register by **20 April 2015**

If you wish to stand for the local elections, nomination packs will be available from 23 February either from the Parish Clerk or the Returning Officer at [CDCelections@cotswold.gov.uk](mailto:CDCelections@cotswold.gov.uk) and **MUST** be submitted to the Returning Officer by

**4 pm on Thursday, 9 April 2015**

for more information about the Parish Council please contact the Parish Clerk



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**For Bookings and prices please contact :**

**Fi Mitchell**

**[fimitchell06@btinternet.com](mailto:fimitchell06@btinternet.com)**

**01285 841229      07885 094393**

# Church Services in Avening & Cherington March

Date	Time	Church	Service Details
1st March	08.00	Avening	Holy Communion (BCP)
	09.30	Cherington	Holy Communion (CW)
	11.00	Avening	Holy Communion (CW)
8th March	08.00	Avening	Holy Communion (BCP)
	09.30	Cherington	Matins (BCP)
	11.00	Avening	Holy Communion (CW)
15th March	08.00	Avening	Holy Communion (BCP)
MOTHERING SUNDAY	09.30	Cherington	Holy Communion (CW)
	11.00	Avening	Holy Communion (CW)
22nd March	08.00	Avening	Holy Communion (CW)
	09.30	Cherington	Holy Communion (CW)
	11.00	Avening	Holy Communion (CW)
29th March	08.00	Avening	Holy Communion (BCP)
Palm Sunday	11.00	Cherington	Family Communion (CW)
	11.00	Avening	Family Praise
Friday 3rd April GOOD FRIDAY	2.00pm	Avening	Tenebrae
5th April	08.00	Avening	Holy Communion (BCP)
EASTER DAY	09.30	Cherington	Holy Communion (CW)
	11.00	Avening	Holy Communion (CW)

**COFFEE WILL BE SERVED IN AVENING CHURCH AFTER THE SERVICE ON THE FIRST & LAST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH**



## WAR GRAVES IN AVENING CHURCHYARD

Last month I had a site meeting in Avening Churchyard with a represent from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. They had received a note from a parishioner expressing concern about verdi gris on two of the headstones marking the graves of former 'Sons of Avening' whose mortal remains are buried in the churchyard. These are the graves of the following:-

Donald White	Died on the 26th November 1942
Richard Ayres	Died on the 30th July 1915
Hubert Ayres	Died on the 9th June 1918

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission regular inspect war graves and have a team of specially trained maintenance engineers who maintain and clean the headstones. All the headstones are made of white Portland stone and hence do get stained, especially when there are overhanging tree branches. The maintenance team will be visiting Avening Churchyard within the next month or so.

### PALM SUNDAY MARCH 29th

There will be a walk of witness before the morning service in Avening

Starting at **10.50** Opposite the Queen Matilda's Tavern

Walking to the Family Praise service in Holy Cross Church at 11-00

Please feel free to join us at any point along the way or in the Church.

The service will last about 45minutes and end with coffee, tea etc.



## Church Floodlighting

Avening church was floodlit on

**19th February**

In loving memory of Michael Powell  
from Thelma, Kevin and Columba .

*The Church looks lovely when it is lit up at night.*

*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*

# Dates For Your Diary

Monday 1st March	Future of Avening Hall	The Bell	7.15pm
Tuesday 3rd March	Cherington Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	6.30pm
Saturday 14th March	Cherington Litter Pick	Village Hall	9.45am for 10.00am start
Saturday 14th March	Mary's Coffee Morning	4, Cherington	10am
Thursday 19th March	Avening Parish Council Meeting	Memorial Hall	7.30pm
Friday 20th March	Avening Film Club	Avening Social Club	7.30pm
Saturday 18th April	Cherington Annual Parish Meeting	Village Hall	10.30am
Thursday 7th May	National and Local Elections	Memorial Hall	All day
Sunday 24th May	Avening Open Gardens	Around village	tba
Sunday 7th June	Avening Fete and Art Show	Around village	Afternoon
Sunday 26th July	Cherington Show	Around village	tba

## The Mobile Police Station



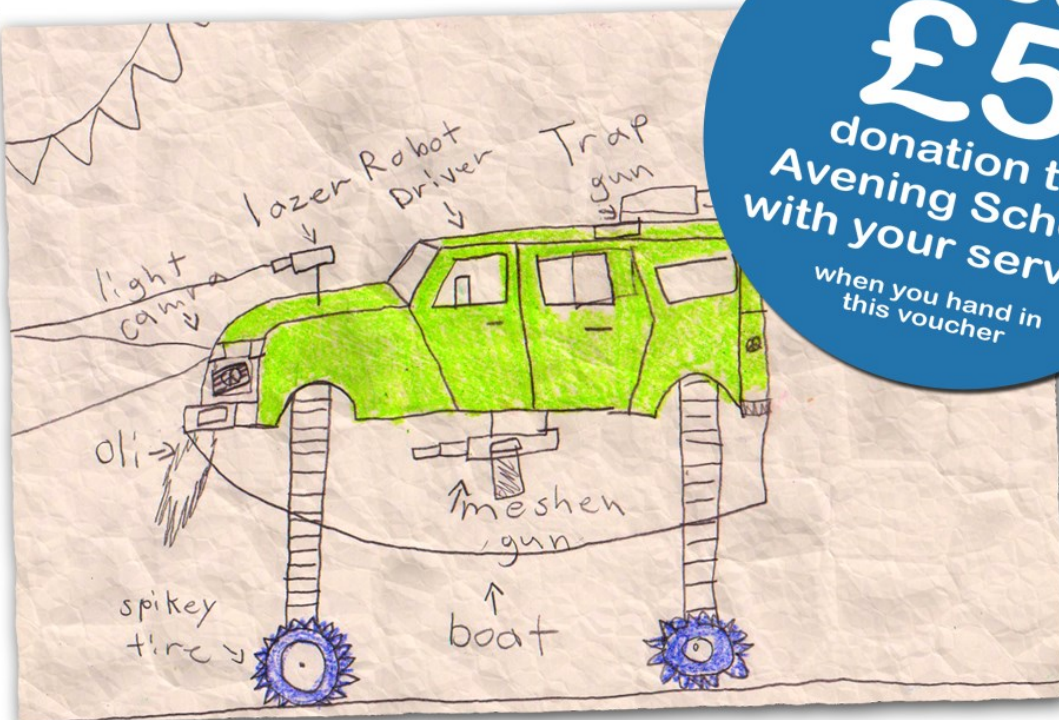
**Non-emergency phone 101**  
**THE MOBILE POLICE STATION**  
**WILL BE VISITING ON**  
**Tuesday March 17th**  
**in Avening from 09.00 to 10.00 and**  
**Cherington 10.15 to 11.15**

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Email: [trulockes@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:trulockes@hotmail.co.uk)