



Buzz

30th March 2021

ELLIE'S LOCKDOWN POEM SCOOPS SHED PRIZE

ELLIE Sanders has won first prize in the inaugural Tetbury Goods Shed's Young People's Writing Competition. 'I want people to reflect on how they viewed life now and how they intend to live when Lockdown restrictions are lifted,' says Ellie.

You can read the poem on www.shed-arts.co.uk, but here are the final three verses. We think they say everything that needs to be said:

*Perhaps you have lived your perfect day
Without even realising.
Perhaps we only appreciate things
once they are no longer ours.
Once we complained about the little things.
Now we see
That our needs are simple;
Our joys easy.*

*After this darkness is lifted
And light returns,
After the door to life re-opens
Maybe then we will live our perfect days
And recognise every single one.
We won't let them slip away like we once did.
We will catch the smiles
Soak up the laughter.
We will live life
Free of care
And with gratitude close.*

*These days are not perfect.
But perfect days are coming.*

Buzz Bee Bye-bye

Thank you (again) to Wild About Avening for our final bee!



Volunteers planted 150 blackthorn, hazel, hawthorn and crab apple whips at the Playing Field, filling in gaps in the hedge, and promoting native species. The whips were donated by Gloucestershire County Council as part of a tree-planting initiative.

IT'S FAREWELL FROM THE BUZZ

THIS IS the last edition of The Buzz.

The Garden Coffee Breaks start in less than a fortnight so after six months and 12 editions we're pressing the exit key and shutting down the computer for the last time.

'We wanted to find a way to keep everyone connected over the dreary winter months,' says Buzz editor Clare Bebbington. 'We wanted to create something that replicated the 'buzz' of the Tuesday morning Café, even though we always knew we could never replace it! We've tried to make sure we included something for everyone and to cover all of the amazing things people were doing in

our wonderful community.'

Over the past six months The Buzz has shared news of Café regulars and new friends, put together specials on Avening's talented craftsmen and women, celebrated the village's wildlife, and added a touch of gossip where libel laws permitted. We've run recipes featuring local produce and shared tips from Avening's bakers. Twelve talented photographers, illustrators and artists contributed bees for our masthead. We've shared our favourite reads, music and cycle routes, celebrated new arrivals and

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Diary

March 30th

Pete's Litter Pick

Cotswold District Council are unable to loan pickers, gloves and hi-vis jackets, so you'll need to come prepared. Gather at the Social Club at 10am. Please, even if you've never thought about doing this before, join in our village spring clean!



April 6th

The Garden Coffee Mornings are back! If you'd like to join in as a host or a guest, get in touch with Jennie South on jennie.south@btopenworld.com.

3rd May

Making music, Cafe-style Zoom concert, see right for details.

All month

Borrow, swap or most of all, enjoy a book. Every day, usually from around 10. Outside 6 Old Hill.

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The Buzz is published online twice a month by Avening Community Cafe.

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FAREWELL (continued from page one)

delved into the village's past.

There's been a serious side too. Ellie Sanders' regular column focused on wellbeing and we've written about mental health issues, thanks to the Mark Townsend Trust, and ash die-back thanks to Alan Watson.

We could go on. But for now we'll end with a very big THANK YOU to

everyone who's spared the time to talk to us, who's been generous in sharing their time and talents, and who's entered into the spirit of our little newsletter – especially Amanda Sanders and Jennie South.

Goodbye - see you in gardens around the village and, wherever you are and whoever you're with, enjoy the cuppas and company!

Sing! Sing! Sing! Tuning up for a Musical May

MUSIC returns to the Cafe repertoire in May when we take to Zoom for an evening of entertainment from Avening's favourite musicians and their friends. Tom Fryer and Gill Adams are behind the idea and are keen to talk to anyone who'd like to take part and you don't even need to play an instrument! Share your favourite track, inspire a singalong or just listen - anything vaguely connected with music gets you a back-stage pass for this event.

The fun begins at 7.30 on 3rd May and if you'd like to dial in, please contact Clare Bebbington via

ccbebbbs@gmail.com for the Zoom details. If you would like to perform in any way, shape or form please get in touch with Gill on gilladams27@hotmail.com as she is Master of Ceremonies for the evening. 'It was a wonderful, spirit-lifting evening last time we did this,' says Gill. 'We all had a go - there are some wonderful musicians in Avening - and it's lovely to have performers from further afield.'

'Tom and his friend Beth were a real highlight. Beth lives in Wales so performing that well in Lockdown is really inspiring'.



The Elizabethan Court came to Avening when the new Starz series, *Becoming Elizabeth*, filmed scenes at the Church. The costumes and sets looked spectacular from what we could see, but any attempts to pump locally-recruited stewards for the inside track have been met with tight lips. Doesn't mean we'll stop trying, though, Dorcas Garlick!



Sue Osborne becomes the latest, and last, Cafe baker to deliver cakes for Avening School's teachers. Mandy Slater organised a rota of bakers as soon as Lockdown was declared in January to show our gratitude to teachers and staff.

Caught by The Buzz



The Cafe Committee

It's a year since the Café had to close its doors. How has it been for you all?

Bob Jennings: I think we've discovered that what the Cafe has done over Lockdown has been so much better than what we expected back then!

Jennie South: It's a credit to the Café and to the village that not only have we been able to reach out to people we already knew, but we've also met some new people.

Pete Barton: I keep thinking that it's remarkable that something so terrible as a pandemic creates something so wonderful.

Wasn't it hard to keep going?

JS: Well, I think with our very early Zoom Cafes we sent a signal that we were going to keep going come what may! But we've needed everyone to make it work.

That's a lot of people...

JS: It's not just about hosts for Garden Coffee Mornings, but guests too. It's not just about cake bakers, but everyone who ordered one of our boxes. Elizabeth Buchanan did a wonderful job with the Stall on the Wall, but it needed

lots of people to share, and swap seeds, plants and produce to make it work.

BJ: People put their hands up to help or came up with ideas...

PB: But we can't deny it, sometimes it was hard to carry on.

Where did your strength to keep going come from?

Gill Adams: Each other! I loved the Coffee Mornings we had on our terrace and the chance it gave me to talk to people passing by.

Just coffee?? I remember the mulled wine too!

GA: Yes! Spin-offs like Rima's Garage Gallery openings were great. I know many more of my neighbours than I did a year ago

Wendy Jennings: I knew lots of people by sight, but I've got to know them so much better over the past year.

PB: The garden coffee mornings were the best bit for me. The small groups meant we could have really good chats.

JS: There was so much natural kindness that the Café has been a catalyst for. That's what I'll remember most.

People

Olga's moving story

One of our favourite Cafe early-birds, Olga Scott, has moved from Avening to start a new life in Worcestershire. We wish her all the very best in her new home and hope the Cafes are good where she's going. It's definitely 'au revoir' and not 'goodbye', so come back and see us soon, Olga!

Through the triangle window

Big thanks to the Lindleys who once again let Avening's talented artisans use a window in their home on the High Street to display their wares. Jess Porter of Pin and Pearl was displaying her earrings for the first time. 'I'm delighted to sit alongside some of the other gorgeous creative small businesses in the village,' she said.

Bag a Bargain!

As every homeworker knows, *Bargain Hunt* is our guilty pleasure - giving us a clear brain-settling/numbing 45 minutes between Zoom calls. So imagine our delight when we learned that Mel Young was once a contestant. Unfortunately far from snaffling a golden gavel, Mel and her partner notched up one of the biggest losses in BH history. She lost her shirt - and they didn't even let her keep the jacket!

Coco takes the stage

Coco Rayner stepped into the spotlight for an open mic talent show, making it to the first round with her own song. 'She's only started singing since Lockdown,' says Mum Atlanta. 'We're incredibly proud of her.'

Look back with pride, says Ellie

THIS PAST year has certainly given us a new-found appreciation for the little things in life. I have no doubt people will be feeling incredibly excited about having people in their gardens or visiting the shops - all of these 'little things' are now huge signs of hope for the future. We crave company and social interaction, yet the past year has seen us deprived of this. Many have adapted to this 'new normal', which may make the coming weeks seem rather overwhelming. Feeling overwhelmed about previously 'normal' or mundane things is absolutely okay and I have no doubt I will feel emotional welcoming friends into the garden and stepping foot in the gym again. Please look back with pride for simply getting through it all.

As a final note, I want to say a huge thank you to Clare for inviting me to write for The Buzz and to everyone who has read it. It will be lovely to see many of you in person soon, but until then: keep taking each day as it comes, be kind to yourself and remain hopeful.



Flower power: Wreaths, garlands and bunting festooned houses over the village in the week leading up to the vernal equinox - officially the first day of spring. Gill Adams cheered us all up with her decoration of the Church gate, but the prize for inventiveness surely goes to Beverley Rymer who recycled plastic milk-bottles, making a series of birds to decorate her front gate. Do it again next year? What do you think?

WILDLIFE WATCH

DID YOU know the village has two protected sections of roadside verge? No? Neither did we.

A section of Hampton Hill and the verge in Nags Head just by the phone box are officially listed on the Gloucestershire Conservation Road Verges Site Register because they are home to rare plants, including

orchids, and other wildlife.

The Parish Council has decided to improve its record of the village's natural 'assets and keep track of the protections in place (Tree Protection Orders are a good example) and where they need to be strengthened,

Get in touch with Richard King if you want more information.

Buzz Food

Vicky's cherry cake

As the Garden Coffee mornings resume, our minds drift back to a hot summer's day and Vicky Viveash arriving with a beautiful cherry cake. So as we contemplate getting back together again, we thought we'd ask her to share the recipe - nothing quite conjures up the summer of 2020 than a delicious cake shared outside with friends!

Ingredients

150g glace cherries
225g self-raising flour
50g ground almonds
1.5 tspns baking powder
200g butter, softened
200g caster sugar
4 eggs

Method

Grease a deep round 18cm cake tin and line bottom with baking parchment. Pre-heat the oven to 160C/325F/Gas Mark 3.

Cut each cherry into quarters and rinse under cold running water to remove excess syrup - this stops them sinking in the cake. Drain and dry well.

Place all remaining ingredients in a large bowl and beat well for about a minute. Carefully fold in the prepared cherries

Turn the mixture into the cake tin and bake for 1-1.5 hours, until the cake is well-risen and golden brown.

Leave in the tin to cool for around 10 minutes.