



Buzz

Cafe's Xmas Bakes Go Down a Treat

The Cafe's bakers were busy last week with over 200 cakes and biscuits baked for customers in the village - and beyond.

Bakers Chris Howell, Sandra Hetterley, Amanda Sanders, Mandy Slater and Clare Bebbington made traditional Christmas cakes, festive cupcakes, ginger cake, frangipane mince pies, and bags of butter biscuit snowflakes to raise money for the Cafe and bring a bit of cheer to some of the Cafe's regular customers.

The teachers and staff of Avening School got four boxes thanks to Emma-Jane O'Neill - and we hear that they were much appreciated.



Wild about our Buzz Bee

ONE OF this summer's delights was the Wild About Avening Facebook page, run by Avening ecologist Phoebe Carter. Our masthead bee is just one of the fabulous photos of our local animal- and plant-life posted by keen wildlife photographers.

Check out the page - and share those snaps.



WISHING YOU ALL A MERRY CHRISTMAS!

SANTA Claus came to town and suddenly the world was a better place. After a weekend of frustration, sadness and figuring out how to get three slices of piping hot turkey breast from Avening to the Home Counties on Christmas Day (Deliveroo? ParcelForce?), seeing Father Christmas and his little gang of followers coming into view along Rectory Lane was just the tonic we all needed.

As ever it was Friends of Avening School who sprinkled this bit of magic over Avening. Both the Friends of Avening School and the Avening Playgroup Committee and Staff work hard throughout the year to fundraise, but with 2020 being

such a challenging year, they felt it was really important to do something festive that people could come and enjoy as a community. All from the safety of their doorsteps! 'We loved seeing the smiles on people's faces,' say the organisers. 'We're very grateful to everyone for joining in the fun, and to those who were able to donate. Happy Christmas from us all!'

Avening Church held its online carol service earlier in the day and it is still available to watch on YouTube. There are readings from familiar faces and carols by the Avening Angels.

Everyone is determined to make this festive season special for all the **right** reasons. Well done Avening!

Diary

Pop-Up Cafes and Coffee Mornings at The Bell

Cancelled until further notice

Tuesdays 10.30-12.30

Mobile Post Office

Outside the Social Club

29 Dec, 12 and 26 January

Noah's Ark Walks

Exercise and company, two-by-two. Short strolls and longer treks complying with prevailing Covid regulations. Contact Wendy Jennings on wendyjennings2010@gmail.com



(And full marks to Wendy for her Buzz-branded backpack)

February

Orchard tree-planting and pruning workshop

At the Playing Field, and subject to Covid restrictions. Details to be confirmed and will be shared on the Avening Community Orchard Facebook page

All month

Roadside Library for readers of all ages, outside 6 Old Hill

Jigsaw Puzzle Library, run by Beverley Rymer. Call 832100 to lend or borrow.



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Caught by The Buzz



Gerald South

This is going to be a very different Christmas for you - and all of us. Can it still be happy?

Yes and no. I shall be happy with the kind messages received and the examples of selflessness and willing sacrifice that I see here in Avening and beyond.

But what about people who are sad at having to change plans?

We may have many restrictions put upon us but the celebration of 'the divine becoming human so that humanity may become more divine' is one thing that a virus cannot change. But there is much I shall not be happy about: the suffering caused by Covid19 in so many different ways, the inequality of opportunity that pervades society, abuse in its many forms and much more. So 'happy' may not be the best word here.

Are there better words?

There are other words, for example joy and peace – these seem to have a rather deeper meaning than happiness.

At heart perhaps Christmas Present hasn't changed much

from Christmas Past...

I am sure I shall not be alone in thinking back to Christmases past – when I was a child, when my own children were young – it would be easy to feel sad that such memorably happy times are no more and that many of those who enriched our lives then are no longer with us.

But isn't that where the word 'joy' can come in? Joy that we have experienced these times and that they live on with us – they are, in a sense, still in our present.

And Peace?

Yes, the word 'peace', not so much the absence of conflict but an inner peace which in the Christian faith (and indeed in other faiths) finds its expression in knowing that although we are one of countless billions across the world we are also uniquely loved and valued by the one who creates and sustains us. Christmas is one of our human ways of celebrating that joy and peace. May the Buzz readers know something of that joy and peace this Christmas.



AVENING'S makers were out in force in Nailsworth on the last Saturday before Christmas. Estelle St John-Smith was selling her delightful wooden reindeers and wooden Christmas tree ornaments and Katie Turner was spreading a bit of magic with her jewellery and Christmas tree stars. Meanwhile, around the corner at 28 Fountain Street, Elizabeth Oliver and Katy Upton had bagged space in the newly-opened Nailsworth Business Hub shop which is definitely worth a visit.



The Year When It Was Good to Talk

WHEN Cafe Committee members Pete Barton, Gill Adams and Jennie South reflect on 2020, it's not about how tough it's been for the Cafe. No, it's about the conversations they had with people who came along to Cafe garden (and garage) mornings.

'I think the highlight for me this year was hosting a 'rule of six' garden coffee morning to celebrate Jim Townsend's 90th birthday,' says Pete, who joined the Committee just before the March lockdown.

'I met Jim when the Cafe first opened and will never forget our opening chat,' he continues. "Hello, I'm Pete. I know your face, but I have to admit I don't know your name'. 'It's Jim Townsend.' 'So how long have you lived in Avening, Jim?' 'All my life'. 'I've lived here over 30 years and I can't believe we've never had a conversation!' 'Well, we'd better put that right then.' So began a friendship which has given Pete the chance to get to know Jim and his wonderful family. 'It was so good to have him as a guest with some of his 'Cafe friends to celebrate his big birthday. He is a great and much-loved character,' says Pete.

For Gill, the highlight was one morning at a garden cafe when she and her fellow guests started reminiscing about flying and aircraft. 'Derrick [Ind] mentioned that he had had his first ever flight out of Staverton airport,' says Gill. 'And this turned into a chat about links in this region to the aircraft industry and in

particular to the design, building and flights of Concorde at Filton.' Eric Best recalled taking the day off to watch Concorde's first flight and Gill shared memories of watching Concorde's last flight over Bristol from the top of the Cabot Tower on Brandon Hill. 'During our chat it turned out that Jean and Don Hopes had also gone to Bristol that day, to watch Concorde fly over the Downs and Clifton Suspension Bridge. It was a very special and moving day.'

Don in particular was a huge fan of Concorde and every morning, he would take his coffee out to his front garden in Sandford Leaze and watch the plane take its regular flight on the way to Fairford; Jean still has a photo of Concorde in pride of place in her sitting room.

'I love how brief encounters at the Cafe, whether in the Club or in recent months here, there and everywhere set off ripples and connections,' says Jennie. 'I remember one morning when Eric Best shared pictures of the Coronation. It showed about ten men chasing barrels of beer. The aim was to get round the village with the barrels and have a pint at each pub en route. In 1953 there were far more pubs in the village.' It must have been quite a day!

These 'lost pubs' have now inspired a stroll around the village as one of the gentler options for the Cafe's Tuesday walks.

Talking has never been better!

People



Thank you to the workers!

We want to say a special thank you to everyone who will be working over Christmas - NHS key workers, care workers and all those working so hard in such difficult circumstances. We hope you get some quality downtime soon x

Pete Barton goes digital

Pete Barton has taken over the Cafe's Facebook site - and has done so with style, with a short verse for the Noah's Ark walk. Only the second rhyming post in the history of the page. The first was about, er, Pete Barton.

Jean's doorstep surprise

The heavens had just opened when Jean Scotford's cake box was delivered - an unexpected - and well-deserved - gift for the Cafe's most loyal customer.



And finally....

A big thank you to everyone who has contributed stories, photos, recipes and bees to the first six editions of The Buzz. Especial thanks go to Amanda and Ellie Sanders who, as well as their articles and proofreading, inject every Buzz with enthusiasm and energy. Keep it coming in 2021!



HAPPY EWE NEAR!

There's always someone keeping an eye on ewe in the village; no matter where you walk, you're never alone! Tony Slater spotted this curious sheep on one of the Cafe's recent Noah Ark walks, which will continue in 2021. So if your New Year's Resolution is to take more exercise, give it a go. Walks will take place on 29 Dec and 12 and 26 Jan and will be adapted to take Covid restrictions into account. In the meantime, Happy New Year from all of us at the Cafe. See you in 2021...

Buzz Food

Ian's Honey Gingerbread

Ian MacDonald's bees are some of the Cafe's more unusual visitors - he brought some of them to one of the Green Cafes of distant memory. If you haven't already tried Ian's delicious honey, now is the time to do so. Pick up a jar from outside his home in West End, spread it on toast, add it to porridge or tea, or try this recipe.

Ingredients

6 oz plain flour
1 level dessertspoon ground ginger
1.5 level teaspoons ground cinnamon
1 level teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
1 egg
3 level tablespoons liquid honey
1 level tablespoon treacle
4 oz sugar
4 oz soft butter or margarine
0.25 pint warm water

Method

Sieve together the flour, cinnamon, ginger and bicarb.
Liquidise the egg, honey, treacle, sugar, butter or margarine and water.
Gradually stir the liquid mixture into the dry mixture (it will be very runny!)
Pour into a greased and lined two pound loaf tin.
Bake at 150 degrees C for 1 hour 30 minutes.
If wished, add soaked raisins or chopped crystallised ginger half way through baking.

As an added bonus: honey truffles!

Melt 200g dark chocolate in a bowl over a pan of hot water. Add 150ml double cream and 60ml honey. You can add any flavourings at this point: finely diced stem ginger, orange zest for example. Cool, roll into balls and put in the fridge until cold. Roll in cocoa or dip in tempered milk, white or dark chocolate.