



The Villager

A Magazine for Avening,
Cherington and Nags Head

May 2025

editors@villagermag.online



Richard Murray



Liane Wheeler



Raph Arwas



Annabel Crapper



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May 2025

Summer is definitely just around the corner and this edition of The Villager is full of exciting events to look forward to!

One of the first events of the summer is Avening's celebration of the 80th anniversary of VE Day on Bank Holiday Monday, 5th May. Everyone is invited to a big party up on the Playing Field, where there will be fun and games, music and a fancy dress parade; we've even heard rumours of a dessert van! It sounds like a great afternoon, so make a note in your diaries and bring your friends and family. Fingers crossed for good weather.....And please remember to send us photos of the event, and of anything else going on in the village

We are still looking forward to receiving some articles for our 'Pet's Corner' column; don't be shy, we know how much you love your animals, so do let us know about them.

We are sad to report that, for the moment at least, the Youth Club has stopped meeting; apparently it wasn't really getting enough children attending to be viable. Discussions are underway about other options for the young people of the village and we hope to report more positive news in the near future.

The Villager Editors

The Villager Magazine

Editors Jane Archer (07812 137161), Derrick Pierce (07762 702982)
and Gill Lelliott (07794 324682)

Advertising editors@villagermag.online Gwyneth Simpson 01453 836556

Deliveries Cas Boddam-Whetham 07900 472999

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Photographs in The Villager Magazine

Many thanks to Lorraine Mills for the cover photo of the beautiful clematis in her Mum's garden in Rectory Lane.

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

editors@villagermag.online

The Editors do not guarantee the accuracy of the information contained in this publication or accept responsibility for errors or omissions or their consequences. Opinions expressed by contributors to this publication are not necessarily those of the Editors.

Contacts for the Villages

Amberley, Avening & Cherington Churches Parish Priest	Natalie Jennings	associate @minchchurch.org.uk
Avening & Cherington Churches Reader	Derrick Pierce	01453 835090
Avening Bell Tower Captain	Andrew Lelliott	07726 345516
Avening & Cherington Cricket Club	Secretary: Sarah Smith	07747 588188
Avening Church Churchwardens	Stephanie Hamilton	07796 981308
Avening Church Flower Team	Gill Adams	01453 833175
Avening Church PCC Treasurer	Diane Martin	dianenmartin59@gmail.com
Avening Cinema Club	Sue or Rima	aveningcinemaclub @gmail.com
Avening Community Café	Gill Adams	07826 291759
Avening Community Orchard	Phoebe Carter	pklc1@hotmail.com
Avening History Project	Jean Chatelain	ajeanchatelain@icloud.com
Avening Memorial Hall	David Bendall	01453833479
Avening Oil Coordinator	Frances Lindley	fndly4@aol.com
Avening Parish Council Clerk	Shani Baker	07415 039234
Grumbolds Ash with Avening District Councillor	Tony Slater	07793 669930
Avening Playgroup	Angie Heslop	01453 832695
Avening Primary School	Jane Rushton	01453 833191
Avening Silver Band	Shaun West.	07495 571372
Avening Social Club	Derrick Ind	01453 835752

Avening Singers	Derrick Pierce	01453 835090
Avening WI	Liz Knowles	01453 833803
Cherington Village Hall	Sarah MacMahon	07443629780 sarahmacmahon10@gmail.com
Cherington Parish Council Clerk	Barbara (Babs) Maloney	Cheringtonparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk 01285760276
Cherington Church Churchwarden	Helen Di Mauro	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
Friends of Avening School	Nicky Dill	01453 833191
South Cotswold Community Wellbeing Agent		01452 528491
Stroud Hospital	Reception	0300 421 8080
Tetbury Hospital		01666 502336

VILLAGE & AREA WEB SITES

Avening Parish Council: www.avening-pc.gov.uk

Cherington Parish Council: cheringtonpc.org.uk.

Cherington Village: www.cheringtonvillage.co.uk

Cotswold District Council: www.cotswold.gov.uk

Facebook: Avening Instagram: #aveningvillage

Gilian's Poem of the Month

May Blessings

Cold Northern winds and cloud-filled days take flight before blue skies,
Warm sunshine cheers our wakening souls and all our spirits rise.
With woolly lambs a-leaping up on the sun-drenched hills,
And lark's song tumbling from the sky, begone cold Winter 's chills!
The days grow longer, brighter, and the air is fresh and clear,
Daffodils, crocus, cyclamen and other flowers appear;
Primrose, daisy, celandine star the grassy banks,
For welcome May is here at last, so let us all give thanks!
Busy bees are buzzing around my cherry tree,
Gathering sweet nectar and humming happily.
The pretty, pale-pink flowers lift their faces to the sun,
And blossoming trees across the land tell us that Spring has come.
Now in the palest blush of dawn a birdsong anthem rises,
And blackbird with his fluid song from apple-tree surprises,
While fluttering wings of eager birds a moving pattern makes
Against the clear blue Springtime skies, as all the world awakes.
Many a wayside hedgerow now sports a cloak of green,
And hawthorn blossom—pink, white, red— everywhere is seen.
Oh, the beauty of the Springtime skies, with new life all around,
With bursting buds on every tree, and fresh shoots on the ground.
Beneath a greening canopy on many a woodland ride,
A flood of bluebells rushes in, an ever-flowing tide,
Filling the air with sweetest scent, pure essence of the Spring.
It lifts my soul with joy to see the blessings May can bring!

Gilian Bulmer-Davison



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Dates for your Diary

Come along and join in the fun at any of the events below - everyone is always welcome! Both the Memorial Hall & Social Club can also be hired for private functions

Date	Event	Location	Time
Thursday 1st May	Voting for Gloucestershire County Councillor (photo ID required)	Avening Memorial Hall	7am-10pm
Monday 5th May	VE Day Celebrations	Avening Playing Field	12.45 - 3pm
Saturday 10th May	Learn how to use a Defibrillator	Memorial Hall	10am
Saturday 17th May	Village Meeting	Memorial Hall	10am
Sunday 8th June	Art Exhibition	Avening Church	1.30-4.30pm
Sunday 8th June	Avening Bear Hunt	Starts Memorial Hall	12 - 3pm
Friday 11th July	Avening School Fete	Avening School	

Puzzle Corner

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

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 34

Avening and Cherington Churches



Dear friends,

I always start these articles with the month ahead in mind, looking out for key events in the calendar. As I looked at my calendar for May, I was struck by the number of 'local celebrations' in my diary. These begin with the Amberley Cow Hunt, which I'm looking forward to experiencing for the first time. The following weekend is marked by celebrations of my home county, as Somerset Day falls on the 11th May.

My diary still lists celebrations and festivals from my previous parishes, where Hereford's 900-year-old May Fair (also known as St Ethelbert's Fair) draws in crowds from across the county every year. And speaking of St Ethelbert, this local saint was killed and buried in the villages in which I served my curacy, so his saint's day – 20th May – is a big deal there (see suttonwalls.co.uk/ethelbert-and-offa for more). And if that wasn't enough, there's even more to celebrate in May, with Ascension Day and the Visitation falling towards the end of the month, the former preceded by three Rogation Days, when priests would traditionally 'beat the bounds' of their parish.

Local celebrations of any kind are important – they tell us something about the people and the places that celebrate them. I wonder what our local celebrations 'say' about us? The Cow Hunt and Marking Day might suggest that Amberley and Minchinhampton are cow obsessed! But I think they say something different – the Cow Hunt, for example, showing that the school (whose PTA organise the event) is at the heart of the village community. Cherington Show demonstrates the villagers' desire to draw others into their community, as do the many community gatherings in Avening. I'm still learning about the local celebrations here and have plenty to look forward to marking for the first time, including Avening's Queen Matilda celebrations in September.

As Christians, our traditions say something about us, too. From baptisms and marriages, which mark the growth of earthly families and the family of God, to saints' days which tell us of past Christians, who give us examples of faithful witness to God. The worship in our churches is varied, even within our benefice, reflecting both the traditions we've inherited



*Palm Sunday service in Avening.
Photo: John Bate-William*

and the ways we've developed them for our current context. I wonder if we ever stop to consider what our worship 'says' about our churches, especially to those less familiar with them?

As you look over your calendar, I wonder what traditions or celebrations you are marking this month? Maybe you can add in one from the list I've shared! Whatever this month holds for you, I for one am celebrating that there's much to celebrate in May.

Revd. Natalie Jennings

Church Services

	AVENING	CHERINGTON
4 th May 10.00am	No Service	Holy Communion
11 th May 10.00am	Holy Communion	No Service
18 th May 10.00am	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion
25 th May 10.00am	Holy Communion	No Service
1 st June 10.00am	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion



Donations to Avening Church

Donations towards the upkeep and running of Avening Church can be made at any time either by using the QR code here or on the card machine just inside the church door

Celebrating VE Day!

Here is the rough itinerary for the celebrations commemorating the 80th anniversary of the end of WWII in Europe:

Place: Avening Playing Field

Time: 12.45 - 3.00pm

12.45 pm: Come and grab a picnic spot at the Avening Playing field and bring your own picnic, chairs, blankets etc.

1.00 pm: Listen to our own silver band playing up beat war songs

1.30 pm: local singers singing well known old songs that everyone can sing along to.

1.45 pm: Children's Fancy Dress Parade. No theme, but prizes for originality and inventiveness!

1.50-3pm: A mix of sports day style races, band music and singing.

3.10 pm: Finish the day off with good old fashioned tug of war!

There will be a dessert van selling slushy and waffle desserts and possibly other vendors — to be confirmed. Look for more details on the Avening and Minch chat facebook page.

If you would like to help with this event, please contact Julie Bowden on 07879684967
jules.a.b@hotmail.co.uk

Letter from Chairman of Avening Parish Council



Each year the Parish Council holds a community meeting to report on the activities of the previous year. It's also an opportunity for villagers to also ask questions to their parish councillors. This year we will also have a presentation on the forthcoming reorganisation of local councils into the Unitary Authorities, which have been the subject of much debate in the press over recent months. Stephan Fifield has kindly offered to share his knowledge of the revision proposals and is perfectly qualified to answer any questions or concerns that you wish to raise. Stephan is the Deputy Leader of Gloucestershire County Council and is part of the county's cabinet for Transformation and Change. Note for your diary: -

Parish Meeting on Saturday, 17th May at 10.00am in the Memorial Hall.

We will endeavour to provide free Tea or Coffee for those villagers attending.

Memorial Hall: Two pieces of good news: -

Very pleased to announce that we have given the go-ahead to a contractor to undertake the reroofing of the hall, with a start date in early July to coincide with the school holidays. This should minimise any interference with school activities, and weather permitting, give a reasonable chance that the work can be largely completed before school resumes in September.

The second piece of good news is that a new projector and sound system in the hall has been installed. This will be especially good news for the film club, as I know there has been some justifiable complaints about the quality of sound that the old system produced. We can now be proud to have a community hall that looks and lives up to expectations.

Telephone Phone Boxes: The phone boxes in Avening and Nag's Head are listed 'buildings' and the parish is responsible for maintaining them. The Avening box has now been cleaned, refurbished and repainted ready for a second life as book facility or similar project. Unfortunately, the cleaning has revealed that there are more cracks in the structure than previously spotted; as a result, it's probably best to live with its 'jaunty' angle; attempts to try and make it 'square and vertical' may result in its demise. The phone box at Nags Head will also need similar refurbishment and will be addressed as soon as we have sufficient funds for the task. Luckily this box is in a better structural condition than the one in the High Street.

Playing Field: How I wish I could go for a month and not have to raise the issue of dog poo in the playing field! – we put up two Poo Bag dispensers for general use, should anyone forget to bring their own when walking their dogs. However, we seem to have persons who think it clever to empty the dispensers for no good reason. Maybe it's children, or maybe it's adults – but whoever it is – just stop! The aim is to ensure that the field is clean for other users and sports. Please report anyone you see acting in antisocial ways – give me a call.

Face Masks: Still available, free, from the Tuesday Café or by arrangement with any of the Parish Councillors.

Knead Bakery: Still visiting us on a regular basis, last Saturday of each month, from 9.45 until 10.30am outside the Memorial Hall.

Gas and Road works: Thankfully the work of replacing old metal gas pipes with new plastic ones has been completed on Rectory Lane and Old Hill. Will there ever come a day that we will have to adjust to living without 'Diversion' signs? One snippet of information I did pick up from the guys doing the work was that the new plastic pipes, which will systematically replace the old metal network, are capable of carrying hydrogen gas; and in Charlton Kings, households are already receiving Hydrogen in lieu of the usual gas. As a sceptic as to the viability and true 'green' credentials of electric cars; I wonder if the promised land of easily accessible hydrogen may one day be on our doorstep?

Strangely, the workers relaying the pipes travelled all the way down from Durham; and the tarmac came up from Portsmouth. A third team whose job was to do the final finishing touches to make the verges all pretty with soil and grass seed came from somewhere else, certainly not local as they only spoke broken English. They also managed to drive their lorry over the verge they had repaired as they left! Do we get value for money anywhere these days or am I showing my age?

Best wishes to everyone

Patrick Mulligan 07713068436

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Avening Community Café

Enjoy good company, crafts, delicious home-made cakes and a drink
at your Community Café - Every Tuesday morning in the Social Club from 9 – 12 noon
Mobile Post Office on site from 9:30 – 11:30am



Thanks to Bob for organising the Grand National Sweepstake (which he won!) and to Sandra for her delicious sweepstake themed traybake. Our litter pick was again a great success – many thanks to all those who participated. We were also lucky to have Louise helping children with crafts.

The village annual art exhibition will be taking place in the church on Sunday 8 June which will feature

some of the Café rag rugging and an opportunity to place commissions! Hopefully some of the artworks from “Art with Mark” sessions will also be on display.

If you wish to donate any surplus seeds, plants or produce, then please bring along any week to the Café “Plant Swop” table. Donations received go to Café Charities.

A reminder to save your postage stamps for the RNIB - collecting box on the Café counter.

Advance Notice – following the success of our Saturday Café in February, we shall be holding a Café Cream Tea afternoon on Saturday 21 June in the Social Club to which everyone is welcome.

May Dates

6th May Day. Art with Mark (£3 each, all materials supplied)

13th Apple Pie Day

20th World Bee Day. Art with Mark (£3 each, all materials supplied).

27th Half Term - children welcome - craft table

21st June - Café Cream Teas 2-4pm

John Hetterley
For Avening Community Café



Church Floodlighting

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 **Piers Hansen on 07770 745642**. The cost is £10 for 2 hours.

District Councillor's Report



It's the time of year when parishes and councils turn their attention to Annual Parish Meetings and AGMs, so in this edition of my report I look back over the year's 'highlights', and project forward to what is being talked about for the coming year.

Cotswold District Council (CDC): Joe Harris has been the elected CDC leader since the Lib-Dems won a majority in the 2018 election but has decided to step down in May. Joe has been a strong leader and has made a positive contribution to the Local Government Association but at CDC has implemented several controversial initiatives, most notably taking away the importance of Parish Council and public comments on planning applications. Also stepping down is the popular Council Chair, Nikki Ind, and a vote will take place at the May AGM to elect her replacement.

In the next year, the next phase of the Publica transition will complete, and hopefully a new system will be implemented to provide real-time data on bin collections (and, more importantly, non-collections). We also hope the planning team will be able to recruit more staff and continue with improvements in processing applications and progressing enforcement issues more effectively.

I have reached half way in my 4 year tenure, and if the government plans come to fruition, by the end of my term I'll be helping to put the lights out at CDC HQ as the district council will be no more.

I can provide you with a summary of the latest financial year accounts upon request, but the headlines are that the state of CDC finances are perilous. In the recent budget meeting, it was confirmed there is still a potential future threat of CDC having to apply for Exceptional Financial Support or issue a section 114 notice should the anticipated budget gap not be closed sufficiently. A forecast budget gap of £1.6m for the next financial year and nearly £5m for the following year needed to be closed through a combination of savings, income generation, and financial management to maintain financial stability.

Gloucestershire County Council (GCC): If you are reading this after 1st May, we now have a new County Council – more about the makeup, leadership, and potential future direction in the next edition of this report. I do hope that the elected councillor for our patch will play an active role in the community and regularly attend parish meetings – I certainly find these the most effective way to engage with the community.

Litter: This term we have learned that fast food outlets are very cooperative when the remains of their products are thrown from cars, but dog mess continues to be an annoying issue.

Roads: Several candidates in their GCC election offerings have put special emphasis on our local roads – hopefully they will follow through with positive actions when elected as our roads really are in a shoddy state of disrepair.

Councillor Tony Slater

Cotswold District Council, Representing Grumbolds Ash with Avening.

email: Tony.slater@cotswold.gov.uk Tel: 07793669930



Avening School

Exploring the Natural World



We had an EGGSTRA special end to the spring term at Avening School last month. During our last week of term, we were joined by Reverend Natalie for an Easter service followed by an Easter bonnet parade which we have re-established as a school tradition, an Easter egg hunt in the school garden and our annual school talent show. This year, the school

community were entertained with a wide variety of performances ranging from comedy to music, gymnastics demonstrations to poetry recitals, as well as a magic show!

As we enter the summer term, each class is embarking on a new topic. The Eagles class (reception) will be turning their focus on the outdoors as they explore everything 'In the Garden' while the Kestrels (y1/2) will also delve into the natural world in their investigations of habitats and climate in their topic 'Dens and Dandelions'. The Hawks (y3/4) will be taking their learning abroad in their exploration of The Tour de France, where they will be looking at the cycling route as well as the language and culture of the country. The Owls class (y5/6) meanwhile will be learning about biomes and climate zones in their environmental topic 'We are the future'.

As we look ahead, the y6 pupils will be preparing for their SATs at the end of May and the Kestrels, Hawks and Owls classes will all travel to Cheltenham next month for the Cheltenham Science festival, where they will get to take part in workshops and activities.

Do you have a pre-school child/grandchild who enjoys exploring the outdoors? Fledgling's pre-school sessions take place in the school garden every Friday 2-3pm during term time for 0-4 year olds with their grown-ups. Contact the school office for more information.

Alex Adcock

For more information about this busy place of learning, please see our school website: www.avening.gloucs.sch.uk

Avening Bear Hunt

Sunday 8th June, 12-3pm

Start the trail at Avening Memorial Hall

£2
per map

WIN!
Giffords Circus
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*One treat per map | If you'd like to design a bear, please email us at foasavening@gmail.com

Annual Avening Art Exhibition, June 2025

To be held in Avening Church on Sunday 8th June, 1.30 - 4.30pm

Admission 50p per person.

A full exhibition of photographs, paintings, drawings and craftwork!

Teas, Cakes and Plant stalls!

Here is an opportunity to sketch live models chosen from the village. Anyone who would like to have a go, please bring a sketchbook and pencil (and an eraser), and we will supply the models and the chairs!

Sketchers will be extremely welcome, or you might like to just watch artists and amateurs at work, or relax and admire our beautiful models!

Photographers: Remember to bring your photographs and enter them for the photographic competition: **'Avening, Nag's Head and Cherington - People, Places and Pets'**

Giving title, and the category (under 12 yrs old and over 12 yrs old). Photographs should be printed on 8"x 6" paper and taken in the last 12 months. A maximum of three entries per person.

(Notice to exhibitors: bring your contributions to the Church from 2pm-4pm Thursday 5th June and from 2pm to 4pm on Friday 6th June). There will be a private view during the evening of Saturday 7th June.

For more information please contact George Buchanan, buchanan.pg@gmail.com



Friends of Avening School



We ended school on such a lovely high before the holidays, with a marvellous Easter Bonnet Parade. What creativity! It was wonderful to see the children in their brilliant bonnets, walking to the school hall in a sea of colour and imagination.

Avening Bear Hunt - SUNDAY 8th JUNE (12-3pm) The well-loved village bear hunt returns with a pawsome trail and unbearlievable displays. Begin your hunt at Avening Memorial Hall, where you can purchase a picnic lunch. Ice creams, tea, cakes, face painting and bear gifts and crafts will also be available. £2 per map – plus, return your completed map at the end of the trail to receive a treat! One treat per map.

If you'd like to design a bear to feature in the hunt, we'd love to hear from you! Everyone is welcome, you don't need to live on the trail route to host a bear, simply think of a name and start designing! Past examples include "Billbear Baggins", "The Statue of Libearty" and "Mary Beary".

We're also offering an exciting prize of a £50 Giffords Circus Voucher and Goodie Bag (kindly donated by Giffords) for the bear voted "Best in Show".

If you currently have a bear that you'd like to return, do please get in touch.

Email us at foasavening@gmail.com | Tickets available at www.foas.org.uk

ARE YOU ABLE TO DONATE A BAKE? If you love baking and are able to donate any baked goods for us to sell at our Bear Hunt, we would be hugely grateful. Whether it's a Victoria sponge, fairy cakes, or cookies, any support would be wonderful! Please contact us via email at foasavening@gmail.com

School Summer Fete - Friday 11th JULY An afternoon of summer games, treats and fun in the sun. Add the date to your diary!

Avening and Cherington Bell Ringing Needs You!

Do you enjoy the sound of the bells ringing out across the village? Wondered how it happens? Join the Avening and Cherington bell ringers and find out.

The bells in Avening and Cherington have been a symbol of community and celebration for generations and as a bell ringer, you'll be helping to keep this uniquely British tradition alive. If you enjoy a little challenge and teamwork and are looking for an engaging new hobby, then come and give bell ringing a go.



Here's why:

- Be part of a team and make new friends in the village and the wider bell-ringing community.
- Bell ringing offers gentle physical activity but is not overly strenuous.
- It requires concentration, focus and keeps your mind sharp.
- Sessions are not too long – an hour or so, and there are opportunities to practise in other churches too.
- Bell ringing often marks the great occasions in the village - weddings, village and national celebrations – and you can be a part of these.

No prior experience is needed - our friendly group will literally show you the ropes! You don't need to be strong, and you can learn from about the age of 10 - there's no upper age limit.

Interested in finding out more? Come along to one of our practice sessions on Monday evenings and see bell ringing in action. It's free, and there's no commitment - just bring your enthusiasm. Please contact Andrew Lelliott (07726 345516) or Sarah Hancock (07340 466021) to find out more.

Sarah Hancock

A Bite to Eat?

Arranging a Group Lunch, Afternoon Tea, Christening Party or other social event ?



Avening WI 'Bite to Eat' scheme may be able to assist with your catering needs.

We can provide and serve a selection of freshly prepared sandwiches, scones and cakes; a fork or finger buffet; or a two course meal.

For prices and any further details :

Please telephone Liz on **01453 833803** or e-mail **lizknowles@hotmail.co.uk**



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**Celebrating
the 80th VE
Day
Anniversary**

Avening Playing Field

VILLAGE PICNIC



MONDAY 5TH MAY 2025
12:45- 3PM

Bring a picnic and join us for an afternoon of sports events on the playing field, ending with a tug of war at 3pm. We will be joined by The Avening Silver Band, local singers plus many more surprise guests.

PLEASE NOTE INDIVIDUALS TAKE PART IN SPORTS EVENTS AT THEIR OWN RISK. WE ADVISE GLOVES AND STURDY SHOES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TUG OF WAR.

See page 9 for further details

Bystanders can be Life Savers



Saturday 10th May

10.00 a.m.

at

Avening Memorial Hall

Avening WI and the Parish Council present....

**A talk and demonstrations by David Owen
PhD**

Kingswood and Wotton Defib Awareness Group

FREE : open to all.

Demystifying Defibrillators and CPR refresher

Stay calm, don't panic!

**The training morning will show you how to use a defib - and
you can refresh your CPR skills.**

**Feel confident to help someone suffering a life threatening
cardiac arrest.**

Refreshments will be available

For more information contact : aveningwi@gmail.com



Avening Playgroup

First of all, thank you to everyone who came to our Easter Eggstravaganza! The weather was lovely and the playgroup was packed full of people – it really was lovely to see. Many visitors did not initially realise where we are and that we have such a great outdoor area, so it was lovely to be able to put Avening Playgroup on the map and show off our lovely setting. A big thank you to the committee for organising the event and everyone who helped before, during and after.

We are in the process of setting up a two year old only session – Time for Twos! This will be held on Friday mornings between 9.15am and 12.15pm during term time. We are able to accept the government funding for:

- non-working parents of 2 year olds – to find out if you are eligible go to www.gcca2yofunding.com , send an email to eyсадviceline@gloucestershire.gov.uk or call 01452 425959
- eligible working parents of 2 year olds – visit www.childcarechoices.gov.uk to check if you can access this.

For paying families the cost is £18 for each session. For more information and to register your child please contact Angie at the playgroup.

Since the last article, we have looked at:

Mother's Day – talking about how Mummy helps us, making Mother's Day card and colourings.

Physical activities – cutting different materials, getting ourselves dressed, moving in different ways and junk modelling.

Easter – decorating eggs, talking about why we have Easter, making chocolate nests and of course an Easter Egg hunt.

With each topic the children also practise their mark-making and cutting skills as well as practice counting and

comparing quantities. Some children have become interested in the sounds we have looked at – s, a, t and p, as well as the sounds in their name. We are taking the opportunity to build on this, encouraging them to say the letter sounds in their names, trace over them, form their names out of magnetic letters and to have a go at writing their names independently.

If you would like to register your child at Avening Playgroup, please call Angie on 01453 832695 or email aveningplaygroup@gmail.com to put their names down and to book a time to have a look around the setting. We operate term time only.



Angie Heslop

AVENINGCINEMA CLUB



A Complete Unknown

The next film will be on
**Wednesday 28th
May**



Doors open 7pm. Film starts 7.30pm. Interval halfway

Please feel free to bring refreshments

AVENING MEMORIAL HALL

Admission £5

The film club runs on the last Wednesday of every month.

Contact us at aveningcinemaclub@gmail.com

New Flags for Avening



As all the Avening vexillologists** will have noticed, Avening church flagpole is flying new flags, with the lovely Union flag flying right now. Go down to check it out.

Nick Winkfield

** vexillologists - Flag experts. The study of flags is known as vexillology, and the art of designing flags is vexillography. Someone who designs flags is called a vexillographer.

In Church of England churchyards, the flag traditionally flown is the St. George's Cross, often with the diocese's arms in the top corner nearest the mast. This is the "correct usage" according to some sources. The Union Flag may also be flown.

Thanks Google!



Avening Playgroup 'Time For Twos'

Friday mornings 9:15am- 12:15pm (term time only)

**We're excited to offer our new fun and engaging
two year old only sessions running on Friday
mornings.**

**Gov Funded hours for eligible families accepted
(£6 an hour for paying families).**

**The Sunground, Avening
GL8 8NW**

Tel: 01453 832695

Email: aveningplaygroup@gmail.com

Website: www.aveningplaygroup.co.uk



Charity Registration number: 900618



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Sponsored Walk for Cobalt in Kevin's Memory

On Saturday March 22nd Lynn, Stephen and John Uzzell and Sue Watkins walked around Cheltenham with a map from Cobalt. It was a lovely warm and sunny day – Stephen did most of the pushing of John's wheelchair – but it was mostly flat!!

People were very generous and between us we managed to raise £400. Thank you to all who supported us.



Skittles 29th March, Avening Social Club

Many thanks to everyone who organised the skittles evening in memory of Kevin Berry, to everyone who donated prizes, bought raffle tickets, made sandwiches and to all who turned up to play 'fun' skittles. I think everyone enjoyed the evening, Kevin would have thought it was great, a bonus being the money raised for Cobalt.

Many thanks to each and every one of you.

Sue Watkins

Talks About Cobalt

Is your organisation looking for a guest speaker? As a local charity we would love to come and talk to your organisation about our work and history. We have speakers who would love to come to your organisation for free. If you are interested in learning more about Cobalt, why we were set up 60 years ago and what we do now as a charity in Gloucestershire and further afield then please do get in touch



Please email fundraising@cobalthhealth.co.uk or call 01242 535922

Highnam Court GL2 8DP Open Garden 22 June 2025

Please join us for a summer afternoon of flowers and lakeside views. Explore the many beautiful gardens at Highnam Court in Gloucester, open on Sunday 22nd June in aid of Cobalt. Disabled access is limited due to gravel paths and stairs into The Orangery.

From 11:00 AM until 04:00 PM. Entry £6 per adult, children under 16 free.

Photo Competition April – 31 July 25 'Capture A Moment'.

Whether you're a seasoned pro or a smartphone snapper, this is your chance to get out and about and showcase your talent, support a great cause, and win incredible prizes! Entries cost just **£2** per photograph and you can enter as many times as you like or if you are under 16 free to enter..Find out more www.cobalthhealth.co.uk/photocomp

AVENING CINEMA NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

Avening is part of the Rural Cinema Project, administered by Cirencester Museum. Each month there is a list of films to vote for, then the final choice is the film with the most votes from all the participating villages – so we don't necessarily get the one we have voted for.

We haven't voted for several years, but as attendance has dropped we thought it might be a way to encourage people to come. If attendance does not increase, we will not be able to continue. If you have any questions or suggestions please feel free to email.

Showings are currently the last Wednesday of the month.

The cinema is not a club, it is open to anyone, you don't have to live in the village, but we do have a list of email addresses from those who would like to vote, and/or get sent the choice for the month.

If you are not on the list and would like to be, please email rimajones@btinternet.com

The film is also advertised in the Villager, on the village notice board, Mel Young adds it to her monthly social media post, and we put posters around the village a few days before the showing.

We did get the list of choices for May and June last week, The two films with the most votes were **The Brutalist** and **A Complete Unknown**

And the overall winner was -

A COMPLETE UNKNOWN a film about Bob Dylan's rise as a folk singer in the early 1960s, run time 141 minutes. This will be shown on the 28th May. Doors open 7pm, film starts 7.30pm. There will be a short interval.

A note about the Village Hall - There is now a good heating system, a new projector and sound system, the chairs still require a cushion, but are next on the list, I think, hope! You can bring your own refreshments, or get them from The Bell.

Rima Jones



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Avening WI

The Social Club was packed for our recent Quiz, so thank you to everyone who came along to support us and enjoy the evening. We were able to donate £200 to Home-Start, a charity whose volunteers help parents, who, for one reason or another, are finding parenting difficult. Helpers visit families weekly to assist with budgeting, play, domestic skills or maybe just listening.

It was a beautiful day for our Arts and Craft walk on Rodborough Common. The group walked a small part of the longer walk that highlights buildings in the area built in the Arts and Craft style. The movement was mainly set up in the early 20th century by William Morris and John Ruskin, who chose the Cotswolds as the area where they could live a quiet, rural life, away from London. Our section of the walk started near Rodborough Crest, overlooking the Nailsworth Valley, before moving on to The Bear (a 17th century inn with early 20th century additions) and then to Silver Birches, originally The Grey House. The group then enjoyed a delicious lunch at The Amberley Inn, built in 1926 in typical Arts and Craft style.

A group of 10 members gathered in Cherington Village Hall for a Mosaic Workshop run by Sadie Rowlands of 'Mosaics by Sadie' in Chalford. The mosaics were created by selecting pieces of broken china, which were then cut and glued onto a choice of small shapes cut from MDF; these included birds, owls, butterflies and coasters. It was described as 'an intense, but immensely satisfying two hours which flew by in an instant' and members were very pleased with their 'masterpieces'!



The Cotswold Way walkers completed the section from Tormarton to Cold Ashton on a lovely clear, but windy day. This is such an enjoyable way to see parts of the Cotswolds usually hidden from view; I recommend it to anyone who enjoys walking.

A small 'Bucket list' group visited The Foundling Hospital Museum in Bloomsbury. The hospital was founded in 1741, by Thomas Coram in a period of great social and political change, during which it became desirable for the wealthy and influential to be seen as philanthropic. Healthy babies under a year old were handed to the hospital by mothers who were suffering from extreme poverty, or other reasons why they could not take care of them themselves. The mothers were given a token, or piece of cloth, so that they could be reunited later if that was possible. The fate of unhealthy babies turned away can only be imagined. The children appeared to be well cared for and they had nourishing food. When the children were old enough most of the girls went into domestic service and the boys were apprenticed to trades. The group completed the outing with lunch at a Japanese restaurant where the food was cooked at their table.

Our theatre group enjoyed the Barn Theatre's production of 'In the Mouth of the Wolf' by Michael Morpurgo and our book group will be reading and discussing 'Pachinko' by Min Jin Lee.

We hope that many of you will come to the Defibrillator and CPR refresher being run by AWI and the Parish Council on 10th May. This is an opportunity to learn life saving skills and you can see full details of the event elsewhere in this edition of The Villager.

At the April monthly meeting Helen Mugridge spoke about 'Galapagos, our voyage aboard The Beagle' giving a fascinating talk about the Galapagos and its wildlife, with some excellent photos and videos. The speaker at our May meeting will be Margaret Jones, her talk entitled 'She Spied for Freedom. A Black Secret Agent in the American Civil War'.

Our meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month at 7.30 in the Memorial Hall. Visitors and prospective members are always welcome.

For more information about Avening WI please contact our secretary Helen at aveningwi@gmail.com or 01453 835484

Bridget Seward



- May 2** **Deeper Purple:** The band deliver the most authentic tribute to the giants of classic rock that have influenced generations of musicians and music fans for over 50 years. Tickets £22 in advance. 7.30pm
- May 10** **Red Priest:** Following their last, sold-out, appearance at the Goods Shed, be prepared for another stunning programme of classics arranged in their own unique way. Tickets £24 in advance. 7.30pm
- May 17** **Drawing Class with Claire Sanders;** Whether you are looking to hone your skills, re-ignite old enthusiasms, or have a go at something new, you will come away feeling refreshed and inspired. Tickets £20. 10am
- May 17** **The Haar:** This folk band of high-level improvisers produce ever-changing musical soundscapes, while Molly Donnery lets her sublime vocals flow to stunning effect. Tickets £16 in advance. 7.30pm
- May 24** **Julie July Band Acoustic:** With over a decade of gigging and recording experience, Julie July Band make their debut performance at Tetbury Goods Shed. Tickets £14.50 in advance. 7.30pm
- May 28** **Playtime Theatre;** A play-along theatre adventure for 2-6-year-olds and their grown-ups. This month: "A Woodland Wonder" – join Ratty as she learns about the environment. Tickets £5, under 1s free. 10am

Check our website for further details of films, Wednesday afternoon concerts and Talks and to book tickets: www.tetburygoodsshed.co.uk

I'm thinking of renting on my own for the first time. It feels like there's so much to think about! What should I be looking out for?



Most properties available for rent are listed online or with lettings agents.

Renting directly from a landlord might be a bit cheaper before you move in, as they may ask for fewer references and you might not need to do a credit check. But you'll have to deal with them directly if any issues arise during the tenancy. Some landlords use a lettings agent to find their tenants and then manage the properties themselves. If an agent is managing the property then you'll deal with them rather than with the landlord directly, eg, if you need to get any repairs done.

Never pay any money before you've seen the property as this is a common tactic used by rental fraudsters. If you can, take someone with you when viewing properties for a second opinion. If repairs are being done when you view a property, take photographs and send an email afterwards so you've got a record of the issues and that you were told they'd be sorted before you move in.

Things often happen very quickly when trying to find somewhere to rent. Ask the landlord or letting agent the following key questions to make sure properties you're considering are suitable:

- Is the tenancy for a self-contained property or are there are shared facilities?
- Is it a joint tenancy with other people?
- How much is the rent? Is it payable monthly or weekly?
- How long is the tenancy for?
- Are bills included in the rent?
- Are any appliances or furniture included?
- Is there a break clause allowing any fixed term to be ended early, if needed?
- Does the landlord need a guarantor?
- Is there a tenancy deposit, how much is it, and how will it be protected?

Check if you'll need to pay a holding deposit while the landlord carries out pre-tenancy checks. A deposit can't be more than a week's rent and should be returned to you at the start of the tenancy. You should also ask your landlord or letting agent what documents you'll need to provide when you agree to rent the property including evidence of your Right to Rent.

Avoid 'subletting' - renting directly from an existing tenant, as they might not have the landlord's permission to rent to you, which could cause problems later on. If a tenant shows you the property on behalf of the landlord they should give you the landlord's contact details.

If a landlord refuses to rent to you because of who you are, this may be discrimination. A 'no kids policy' or refusing to rent to you because you get benefits could also be discrimination. You only need to tell a landlord or letting agent you receive benefits if they ask. If you run into problems, you can find information on our website – www.citizensadvice.org.uk or call us on 0808 800 5010.



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Puzzle Answers

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

TONY'S CHARITY QUIZ NIGHTS

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Avening Parish Council



Dog Waste Bins

The Parish Council have provided dog waste bag dispensers in the playground. These were installed to help combat the amount of dog waste not being picked up.

Unfortunately, someone has seen fit to remove the bags and tie them on the fence. Please stop!

The bags are paid for out of the Parish Council's budget – Ultimately your Council Tax.

If you see children playing with them, please ask them to stop.

If you witness dog fouling not being picked up anywhere in the village, please report to CDC. <https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/environment/litter-street-cleaning-and-dog-fouling/>

Annual Parish Meeting 17th May

County Councillor Stephan Fifield will be giving a talk and answering questions about devolution of district Councils and the effect it will have on small communities. This is an important subject that will impact all our lives.

Please come along and join in. Free refreshments will be available.

Planning Applications & Tree Works Since the Last Issue and Parish Councils Decision: New Planning Applications

25/00350/FUL: 10 Sandford Leaze. Erection of two storey side extension. No Objections

25/00694/COMPLY: 51 Nags Head Lane. Compliance with condition 4 (details) of permission 24/01179/FUL Alterations and extensions to convert garage, erection of canopy and relocation of parking area and existing vehicular access and condition 3 (details) of consent 24/01180/LBC Alterations and extensions to convert garage, erection of canopy and relocation of parking area and existing vehicular access. No Objections

25/00916/COMPLY: Old Quarries Rectory Lane. Partial compliance with conditions 3 (Sample materials), 7 (Timber boarding) and 25 (Artificial roosting nesting) of permission 22/03666/FUL in respect of the East Gate Dwellings and Lodge - Change of use of existing buildings from residential institution (C2 use) to residential (C3 use) to form a total of 11 no. dwellings, through demolition of modern extensions, internal alterations and extensions, demolition of modern institutional buildings and replacement with new dwellings, associated garaging, landscaping, construction of new wall in alignment of historic walled garden and associated works. No Objections

Cotswold District Council Planning Decisions

24/03783/FUL: 12 Star Lane Erection of replacement garage with ancillary accommodation over. Permitted

24/03832/FUL: 1 Tetbury Hill. Creation of new vehicular access and driveway and replacement boundary walling - Permitted

25/00018/LBC: 31 Nags Head Lane. Carry out essential maintenance to the property by repointing the front exterior wall to the right-hand side only. This will preserve the

fabric of the building and prevent water ingress. The work will involve removing all the old cement and flaking lime mortar down to the bed joint and repointing with lime mortar, locally sourced sharp washed sand and stone grit throughout - Permitted

25/00063/FUL21 West End Erection of two-storey side extension, alteration to front porch and the re cladding of dwelling – Permitted

25/00509/TCONR Brook House Hampton Hill Large, mature poplar' Re-pollard below previous pollard leaving the new pollard at 6 meters in height – No Objection

Roads and Footpaths

Potholes continue to be a problem throughout the County. Although the Parish Council report regularly, the more reports the better. If you see a fault on the footpaths or the roads, please report it on Fix My Street.

<https://fixmystreet.gloucestershire.gov.uk>

Neighbourhood Policing Team

Police Seargent Garrett Gloyn, PC Chris Pritchard, PCSO Edmund Maina, 101@gloucestershire.police.uk

The Agenda and Minutes of the last parish council can be viewed at www.avening-pc.gov.uk The Parish Clerk can be contacted via email at: parishclerk@avening-pc.gov.uk



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Regular Activities in the Villages

Would organisers please let us know if there are any changes or additions to these events

Event	Day	Time	Where	Contact
Avening Silver Band	Monday	7.00-9.00pm	Memorial Hall	aveningsilverband@gmail.com
Community Café	Tuesday	9.00am - noon	Social Club	Gill Adams 07826 291759
Mobile Post Office	Tuesday	9.30-11.30am	Social Club car park	
Cherington PC	Tuesday bi-monthly	6.00pm	Cherington Village hall	Babs Malony 07958116794
Line Dancing	Tuesday	8.00 - 9.30 pm	Social Club	Social Club 01453 833760
Avening Churchyard tidy up	Wednesday	6.00 - 7.00pm	Holy Cross churchyard	Churchwardens
Avening PC	2nd Wednesday each month	7.30pm	Memorial Hall	Shani Baker 07415 039234
Avening Cinema Club	Last Wednesday each month	7.30pm	Memorial Hall	avening Cinemaclub@gmail.com
Avening Church bell ringing	Monday	8.00-9.00pm	Church bell tower	Andrew Lelliott 07726 345516
Avening W.I.	2nd Thursday each month	7.30pm	Social Club/ Memorial Hall	Liz 01453 833803
Fledglings for pre-schoolers	Fridays during term time	2.00 - 3.00pm	School Garden	Avening School
Fun Skittles	Last Saturday each month	7.30	Social Club	
KNEAD Mobile Bakery	Last Saturday each month	9.45 - 10.30am	Memorial Hall	
Charity Quiz	1st Saturday each month	8.00pm	The Bell	
Avening Singers	Sunday	4.00pm	tba	Derrick Pierce 01453 835090

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