

The Villager

**A Magazine for Avening,
Cherington and Nags Head**



July 2025

editors@villagemag.online



Richard Murray



Liane Wheeler



Raph Arwas



Annabel Crapper



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July 2025

July is the month of the Cherington Show, which has been one of the highlights of the local calendar for many years, and whose reputation and attraction spreads far beyond the surrounding villages. A truly lovely traditional show, with competitions for everything from the best vegetables or flowers to poems and artworks; featuring a fabulous and highly competitive dog show; and with events, stalls and games for all members of the family. Be sure to put it in your diary - and fingers crossed for good weather!

An annual event which only started up quite recently but has fast become a popular fixture is the Avening Bear Hunt. This year, blessed with a warm sunny day, it was a lovely occasion, with the village full of excited children and their extended families following the hunt for more than 20 bears hidden throughout Avening, finishing off with well-earned drinks and cakes in the Hall. There was a great atmosphere and congratulations to all the hard-working organisers and bear creators. Some great puns in the names as well!

The Bear Hunt coincided with another relatively new annual event - the Art Show in the church. Congratulations as well to everyone involved in making this such a success.

It is events like these that make living in these villages so special.

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 **Hazel Redding** for the cover photo of Cherington Green.
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	aveningcommunityorchard@gmail.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	John Hall	07825405124
Avening Social Club	Derrick Ind	01453 835752

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@googlemail.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
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

Blue Tits

inspired by the many blue tits which enchant me in my garden every day, and have their babies in my nest box every year.

Pretty little blue tit, such a smart wee fellow!
With cap and gown of blue and green, and waistcoat primrose yellow.
He's such an acrobatic bird, an active little clown,
Flitting about my garden, and often upside down!
His cheery chatter with his pals delights me all day long,
They're all such busy little birds, but still have time for song.
But now is not the best of times to lark about and play,
With a nest of hungry little chicks to nurture every day.
So back and forth from feed-table to nest-box in the tree,
Too busy in his endless task to even notice me!
And even when those downy chicks all stagger from the nest
Out into the big wide world, he still will have no rest.
The chicks still clamour to be fed by weary parent birds,
Flutt'ring their wings and chirping loud, anxious to be heard.
All lined up along my fence and all demanding food.
So no peace yet for Mum and Dad from their hungry brood!
But, those pretty, downy chicks will no doubt grow and thrive,
And another generation of blue tits will survive.....

Gilian Bulmer-Davison

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



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
Weekend of 4-6th July	Biodiversity Blitz - see page 11 for details		
Friday 11th July	Avening School Fete	Avening School	
Sunday 27th July	Cherington Show	Cherington	1.00 - 5.00pm
Sunday 14th September	Pig Face Day celebrations		

Thank You!

I just wanted to say a great big thank you to Gill [Lelliott]. I was supposed to be helping her produce last month's edition of the Villager but unfortunately, I broke my right arm and found using my computer very difficult. So, as I say a great big thank you to Gill for coping virtually single handed, as Jane was on holiday .

Thanks also go to the ambulance service and staff at Gloucester Royal Hospital and the friends and family who have helped Doreen and I out through this difficult time. The consultant says that things are progressing as they should be but it is going to be a slow recovery.

Derrick Pierce

Puzzle Corner

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

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,

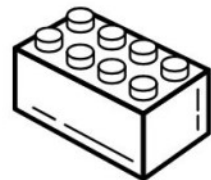
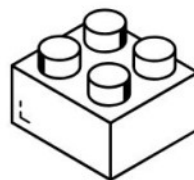
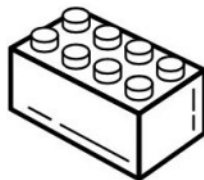
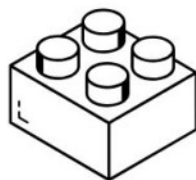
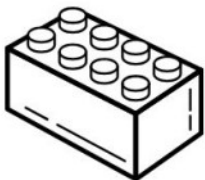
June was a glorious month, but it seems to have flown by! It was wonderful to see many of you at the Art Show, held in church on the 8th June, where I had my first experience of sitting for a portrait. It really brought the artwork to life having a group of local artists draw several subjects over the course of the afternoon. And speaking of coming to life, it was while I was sitting that I caught sight of John Rodgers' portrait of Jim Hill, which was hanging on the south wall of the church. Hung in its proper place, Jim's portrait seemed full of life, and I was able to see something of the man I've never met but who I know was a big part of life in Avening for over nine decades. It was a timely reminder of Jim's life as a week later we laid him to rest alongside his parents in the churchyard.

July promises to be just as full of memories as was June, as year 6's here in Avening and across the country say goodbye to their friends and teachers at the end of the school year. And there is, of course, Cherington Show to look forward to on Sunday 27th July.

In the church, we've entered Trinity season. Some think of this as the long break between important parts of the church's calendar, but I see these few months as a reminder to pause and allow space for growth. The 'liturgical colour' for Trinity is green, which reminds us of the plants and trees growing all around us – a fitting reminder that just as they need sun and rain to grow, so do we need to fuel ourselves with all the nutrients that will enable us to flourish. I hope you find things to nourish your soul this month.

Revd. Natalie Jennings

WANTED



Do you have any building bricks (e.g. LEGO, DUPLO) that you no longer need? If so, I'd love to take them off your hands!

Please contact me at

associate@minchchurch.org.uk or **01453 798852**

*Revd. Natalie Jennings,
Associate Priest of Amberley, Avening and Cherington*

Church Services

	AVENING	CHERINGTON
6th July	10am Holy Communion and Baptism of Montgomery Wookey	10am Holy Communion
13th July	10am Holy Communion	No service
20th July	6pm Evening Prayer	10 am Holy Communion
27th July	10am Holy Communion	No service - Cherington Show day
3rd August	10am Morning Prayer	10am Holy Communion



Church Floodlighting

The church was floodlit on:

Thursday June 5th

Remembering **Derick Woodman** on his 78th birthday.
Remembering you is easy, we do it every day, losing
you is the heartache that never goes away.
With love, Julie and family.

Thursday 19th June

In loving memory of **Sally Sutton** on the 1st anniversary of her passing.
She is missed by all. X

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.



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

Letter from Chairman of Avening Parish Council



Following on from my last letter, where I mentioned that each of the Parish Councillors had been assigned individual responsibilities similar to those of the previous year, I think it is appropriate to give the full details; especially as the councillors carry out many tasks which can go un-noticed but are an essential part of the life blood of our village. The responsibilities are: -

Chairman – Cllr Patrick Mulligan

Vice Chairman – Cllr Richard King

Memorial Hall – All Parish Councillors are Trustees

Finance Committee – Cllrs John Hetterley, Patrick Mulligan, Tony Slater, Richard King, (Clerk/ RFO in attendance)

Playing Fields Committee – Cllrs Richard King, John Hetterley, Patrick Mulligan. J Mills.

Memorial Hall Management Committee – Cllrs Patrick Mulligan, David Bendall.

Church PCC – Cllr Stephanie Hamilton

Café – Cllr John Hetterley

Environment – Cllr Tony Slater

Defibrillators – Cllr James Mills

Website/Email – Cllr Tony Slater

Footpaths – Gill Parsons. Cllr Parsons said she may need help from other Parish Cllrs. It was agreed that Cllr Parsons will ask for volunteers when required.

Highways – Cllr Patrick Mulligan

Planning – Cllr Richard King

Snow & Flood Warden – Cllr Patrick Mulligan

Should you have any matters that need the attention of any of the Councillors, their e-mail and contact numbers are readily available on the village website.

Playing Field: It was unanimously agreed to install CCTV cameras to cover the Playing Field and the Orchard. It will enable monitoring of some of the local wildlife on an ongoing basis and give some reassurance that we are doing our bit for wildlife conservation. The cameras will be discreetly placed so as not to be obvious and will be a 24hour operation. So please be aware that if you are in the Playing field you are likely to be filmed. CCTV notices will be posted around the area as a reminder to the presence of cameras. They will also have the added benefit of perhaps making the area a safer zone, as and when the days get shorter and the evenings longer.

Bus Shelter (Adjacent to Old Hill junction): You may have noticed that this shelter has suffered a terminal blow from an unknown vehicle and therefore we will be replacing it with a new shelter subject to getting reasonable quotations for the cost.

Parking on Pavements: We have received several complaints from residents about vehicles being parked partly or entirely on pavements. There are increasing numbers of cars in our lives, and parking, particularly in historic village streets is a real problem. If there is no alternative way of parking available, please make sure that there is sufficient room on the

pavement for a wheelchair or pram to pass by safely.

General: On a broader front, and taking into consideration the pending change in unitary authorities which are planned for later this year and early 2026, Avening Parish Council will make efforts to liaise with and work in unison with our surrounding Parish Councils. The aim will be to make our voices and opinions heard by Government and the current County Councils.

Memorial Hall: The re-roofing is scheduled to start on 21st July and hopefully completed before the end of the School Summer Holidays.

Reminders: -

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 of the Memorial Hall.

This has no connection to Avening, but I happened to see this sign outside a material shop which I thought clever and amusing enough to share. (The shop sold materials and sewing accessories)

R.I.P to a mate of mine

**His wife sent him out to get some sowing thread,
but he ended up in the pub all day instead,
Gone, but not for cotton.**

Best wishes to everyone

Patrick Mulligan 07713 068436

Wild about Avening - Wildlife Sightings Wanted

Wild about Avening are running a Biodiversity Blitz on the weekend of the 4th-6th July

From the 4th to 6th July we are asking you to record the wildlife you see in your gardens, around the village or across the wider parish. These records will be collected and submitted to the Gloucestershire Environmental Records Centre (GERC) and will then form part of Avening Parish Council's biodiversity audit.

The more we know about which animals and plants live in the parish, the better we can take steps to look after them and the natural environment. A healthy and resilient environment provides economic, environmental, health and community benefits.

Over that weekend please record all the wildlife you see, noting:

1. WHO - name of person recording
2. WHAT - species and number of them seen
3. WHERE - where did you see it (grid ref preferably/What3Words/Address)
4. WHEN - date

Please send your records to wildaboutavening@gmail.com.

Please get involved. There are lots of Apps out there to help you identify species by sight or sound.

District Councillor's Report



Cotswold District Council (CDC) has a new leader: As expected Councillor Mike Every has been elected as the new leader of the Liberal Democrat Group on the council and formally took over as council leader at the Annual Council Meeting on Wednesday, May 21. He succeeds Councillor Joe Harris, who stepped down after six years in the role. Cllr Every represents the Siddington & Cerney Rural ward and has served as deputy leader and cabinet member for finance since 2019.

How the move to a Unitary Authority will affect Town & Parish Councils: I attended a Town & Parish Council Summit at the Royal Agricultural University on 4th June. The need for effective Parish Councils will become even more crucial as the proposed reorganisation means that CDC could be dissolved as soon as 2026, and residents will no longer be represented by a District Councillor to champion their needs. It is likely that the equivalent of two county councillors will provide this service instead. Gloucestershire is one of only 21 areas in the country still with 3-tiers of local government (County/District/Parish) and the government plan is that both CDC & GCC will be scrapped in favour of one or possibly two unitary authorities. Following this first step, full devolution may follow and entails the transfer of powers and funding from Central Government to Strategic Authorities of around 1.5 million people.

The Unitary plan is still being worked through with the government, but Gloucestershire has been invited to proceed in November 2025. These options were submitted for review: a single Unitary – including the whole county; two Unitaries – one including Cheltenham/Tewkesbury/Cotswold and the other the Forest of Dean/Stroud; Two Unitaries - Enlarged Gloucester city area, and the rest of the County. The final submission will be made this November, with the transition (including more elections for a 'shadow' council) commencing from May 2026.

The unitary authority will unlikely be able to afford to cover everything district and parish councils do now, with their focus being on adult care, children, planning, highways and other county wide services, so parishes will need to take ownership of local services and charge accordingly. Although the theory of a unitary authority will realise savings (fewer councillors, CEOs etc), the reality from previous transitions is that local taxes will probably go up. There will be a lot of work (and costs!) to explore how the new setup will work, as no one has all the answers!

A417 missing link: Members of the project team visited the A3 Hindhead Tunnel at Devil's Punchbowl, Surrey this month by invitation of the National Trust, to understand what lessons could be learned about building a repurposed road, like that planned on the A417 scheme. This is especially important for the Missing Link project. We know that poor planning of disused old roads can lead to antisocial behaviour, failure to take up missing opportunities of repurposing and expensive servicing by both Gloucestershire County Council, Cotswold District Council, the Police and other bodies.

The Missing Links scheme has shared an exciting update about the innovative UK-first

trial it has been running to explore how vegetation removed from the site can be reused to make significant carbon savings. Biochar – a charcoal-like material produced by burning organic matter at extremely high temperatures – was produced from vegetation removed by the scheme, turning it back into a product that can be reused to fertilise new plants and catch microplastics. The study produced five tonnes of biochar on site, which is a saving of 13 tonnes of CO₂ – the equivalent of roughly five flights from London to Perth.

Adders were translocated to new sites as part of the Missing Link scheme. High numbers have been seen to be in good health and have expanded across their new receptor sites well.

Councillor Tony Slater

*Cotswold District Council, Representing Grumbolds Ash with Avening.
email: Tony.slater@cotswold.gov.uk Tel: 07793669930*



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Matilda, Duchess of Normandy's Diary

17 OCTOBER 1066

Sixty metres! That's the length of the tapestry the town of Bayeux are designing to illustrate the Battle of Hastings! How on earth they are going to house it is beyond me. And if I know my William, the story it portrays might well be economical with the truth.

Certainly the first reports of the battle were very positive: our troops were fresh, and far better armed, with cavalry and archers against men with pikes. King Harold was killed – he got an arrow in the eye – and his men were routed. But some of the reports I'm hearing suggest that it wasn't as simple as that: Harold had taken the high ground, and formed his troops in a defensive posture, rather like a Roman phalanx. This meant that our archers were ineffective, arrows bouncing off the men's shields, and neither the infantry nor the cavalry could get amongst them. Worse, when fighting broke out a rumour went round that William had been killed, causing a retreat, and he had to charge around with his helmet off, showing his men that he was alive and urging them on.

Apparently it was a 'feigned flight' that won the day, as the English troops imagined that William's men were beaten and retreating and charged after them. This exposed them to the cavalry, waiting on the flanks, who set about them and caused a rout. Well, if it were true, it was a clever tactic of William.

Now William assumed that once Harold was killed he was automatically King, but in England it's not as simple as that. He has to go to London to be officially crowned. I have to be crowned as Queen too, but I shan't be going there with the family for at least a year or so as I don't want to disrupt the boys' education, particularly Robert, as he is likely to follow his father as King one day. I'm not sure I want to subject them all to the English diet either, especially the girls, as it can easily lead to obesity.

I do wonder what drives William to conquer lands and extend his territory, given all the death and destruction he creates. Surely it can't just be that he was teased and bullied as a boy. Perhaps some men are just born like that.

Roger Lindley

Pig Face Day Celebrations Sunday 14th September

Pig Face Day is being celebrated on Sunday 14th September this year, commencing with a church service at 11 am followed by refreshments and entertainments in the Memorial Hall from midday. The Evening Singers and Silver Band will perform, Evening School will put on a play, and the WI will be providing their traditional pork baps. Not to be missed!



CHERINGTON VILLAGE PRESENTS

The 80th Cherington Village Show

SUNDAY 27TH JULY 2025

1PM - 5PM

THROUGHOUT THE VILLAGE

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bouncy castle, fun dog show, crafts,
cakes & more—great for all the family!

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PARKING AT BOTH ENDS OF THE VILLAGE**

cheringtonshow.com and find us on Facebook

Avening Art Exhibition



The eagerly awaited 'National and International World Famous Annual Avening Art Exhibition' opened to great excitement in the Church on Sunday the 8th of June

The exhibition was held in the Nave of the Church, swept clear of the heavy ash chairs by Stephanie Hamilton and Stephen Uzzell. At the East end of the Church was a Pop-Up tea and cakes stall, with small intimate tables set out around the edge of the Chancel.

Outside the Church there were another two attractions. By the main door, was a nearly-new gift stand, and nearby was a plant stand under a huge gazebo. Marilyn who knows all about plants was running this, and what a very good choice she was!

So while visitors wandered in and out, looking for bargains, watching the artists at work, studying (and purchasing) the pictures on the walls, admiring the amazing rag rugs, a steady stream of models came and were immortalised in 15 minutes sessions. All this time Stephanie and Louise King brewed tea and coffee, cut cakes and Stephen washed up.



One area of the Exhibition which was not well supplied with entries was the Photographic Competition. However the standard of pictures submitted was universally high (although not always meeting the Criteria which was 'Cherington and Avening, people, places and pets.'). A distinguished external judge complemented Arthur Smith on his approach in capturing an interesting and difficult subject, but he chose two outstanding winners. George Dill won the under 12 competition with some exceptional shots of a local garden, and his brother Harry won the adult category with 'a very well composed and balanced' picture of Avening Church. They probably earned more together in 1/60 seconds than their hardworking parents earn in a week! However, a lot of prize money was not awarded, and will be carried over for Next Year's competition!



None of this amazing exhibition would have been possible without the strenuous and unrelenting help from the workers: Charles Jones, carpenter in chief; Ron Major, newly promoted assistant probationary apprentice 'Grip'; Liz, Nanette and Elizabeth, Exhibition Angels in charge of Hanging; Louise, Stephanie and Stephen at the tuck shop; and Marilyn and

Elizabeth outside in the warm churchyard. Deborah Blackie and Anna Woodard were on the gate. Here they undertook the most challenging task of all, and carried it out with charm and discretion. Everyone was welcomed and cherished and visitors sailed into the Nave, happy, excited and interested.

So thank you to all of those who came to enjoy the exhibition, those who contributed Artwork, plants and sculptures, those who helped set up and dismantle the displays, the cooks, the florists, the models, the Rag Ruggers and Deborah and Anna on the gate!

Thank you, and see you next year!

George Buchanan

Cobalt is making a real difference across Gloucestershire — and your support matters.



Snowdon Sunrise Trek: In May, a dedicated Cobalt team reached the summit of Snowdon, raising an incredible £1,250! (Picture attached)

Cobalt Photo Competition: Enter your favourite picture for just £2 — under 16s enter free! Open until 31st July, with all proceeds supporting our Teenage and Young Adult Nurse. Visit our website for details.

Coffees That Count for Cancer: Host a coffee morning and help raise funds for local cancer patients. To get started, email Emily at emily.janes@cobalthhealth.co.uk for a fundraising pack.

Gloucestershire Vintage & Country Extravaganza — 1–3 August
Upcoming Events

Visit our website for full details:

- *Highnam Court Open Garden* — 22 June (11am–4pm, £6 entry, U16s free)
- *Lunch at Prithvi* — 12 September (2-course fundraising lunch)
- *Coffee Morning at Cobalt* — 27 September at Linton House, Cheltenham

Find out more: www.cobalthhealth.co.uk fundraising@cobalthhealth.co.uk 01242 535922

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Friends of Avening School

Well, what a Bear Hunt we had! The Avening Bear Hunt returned in June, and boy it did not disappoint... We saw some incredible displays, from interactive and creative to hilarious and totally fun. Well done everybody! (see page 20 for photos)

This year's hunt has raised over £1,600 which will be tremendous help in our campaign to build new school outdoor play equipment. Thank you so much to everyone who came and supported what was such a brilliant day.

New Outdoor School Equipment: One of our biggest fundraising targets this year is to raise £7,000 for new outdoor play equipment at Avening School. FOAS are aiming to donate a substantial amount towards the project, and the fantastic amount raised at the Avening Bear Hunt has got us off to a brilliant start.

Have you seen the Forest School pond? If you've popped into Forest School recently, you may have noticed how beautiful the pond is looking. This is all thanks to Ana and her team from S&P Global's Essential Impact Program. Through the program, employees can donate their time to personal causes and serve together as teams, while S&P Global provide financial support to cover the expenses of the project. Ana, Juan, Claire, Nicky and Sophie worked tirelessly to bring the Forest School pond back to life, and since then Mrs Carter has spotted five frogs, 24 newts and over 50 dragonfly nymphs!



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



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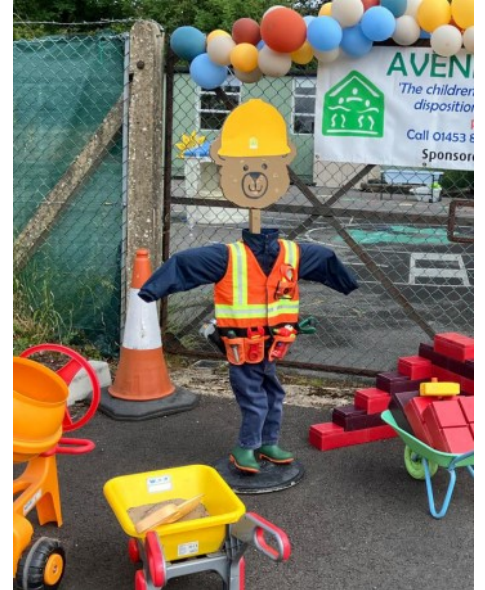
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Avening Bear Hunt 2025



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Avening Playgroup

In last month's issue I wrote that our AGM would be held on June 17th. This has now changed and will be early July, date to be confirmed. Don't forget – everyone is welcome!



We must say a very big thank you to Joe, our committee chair's partner for raising £610 for the playgroup by completing the "Dorset Gravel Dash" during the May half term break. This is a two day event where competitors had to endure 100 miles of offroad cycling, which included around 2000 meters of uphill climbs and had to sleep out in the open. The money raised is going on outdoor equipment and resources. Our treasurer, who will unfortunately be leaving the committee this year, has also been busy applying for grants. With this money and the money that Joe raised we have been able to purchase new picnic tables, trampolines, a forest water run, balance

beams and some smaller resources, such as chalk pens and white board pens, for the children to practice writing their names. So, once again, a very big thank you.

We have been busy over the last few weeks, looking at the following topics:

Minibeasts: making playdough minibeasts, going on a minibeast hunt in the playground, painting ladybirds, finding all the minibeasts on the tuff tray, threading spider webs, colouring and painting minibeasts as well as finding the right habitats for each one.

Healthy Living: Lots of discussions about being healthy, eating fruit, doing exercises, keeping clean and looking after our teeth. We made fresh juice out of oranges and apples, which everyone tasted and liked. The children made teeth out of playdough and put them into a mouth. We did our physi-gym exercises.

Fine Motor Control: – lots of cutting and mark-making. The children traced over the letters in their names, lines and shapes. They practiced cutting playdough, along lines and around shapes, as well drawing pictures of their families.

Water: we discussed and looked at pictures of the water cycle, played with coloured ice and water beads, looked at items that sink or float, and attempted a rain drop experiment, which unfortunately didn't work!

With the lovely weather we have been having, the children have been making the most of our lovely playgroup and covered outdoor area and have enjoyed lots of waterplay.

We have spaces left for September 2024, so if you would like more information about the playgroup or to book a time to come and have a look around, please call Angie on 01453 832695 or email aveningplaygroup@gmail.com.



Avening School

New Beginnings and Fond Farewells

As we approach the end of another academic year at Avening School, we are busier than ever, packing in as much learning and enrichment as we can before the summer break. The Kestrels have had caterpillars in their classroom, enabling them to observe the life cycle in action. Meanwhile, next door in the Eagles class, they have been witnessing the hatching of ten chirpy chicks, which the whole class are helping to look after. Up in the Hawks, the y3 pupils have travelled to Leighterton School for a maths challenge and the class are completing their swimming lessons in the final weeks of term.

The whole school will spend three days in their new year groups at the beginning of July, giving them a taste of what to expect in September. We will also be welcoming our new reception children into the Eagles class as they prepare to join our school at the start of the new school year.



With change and new beginnings also come fond farewells. We are so proud of our y6 leavers, many of whom have been with us since the beginning of their educational journey seven years ago and although we are obviously sad to say goodbye, we are also incredibly excited for them as they take the next step up to secondary school.

This year, we are also bidding farewell to two of our longest serving staff members. Our wonderful Mrs Woodman, who first joined the school staff in 1998 and has worked tirelessly as a midday supervisor as well as running our after-school provision. And the legendary Mrs Sollis, who has run the school office for 25 years. There is no easy way of saying goodbye to these two incredible ladies who, combined, have given over half a century of service to our school and helped shape the way the school is today: a happy, nurturing place in which children grow, flourish and aspire. We wish them every happiness for the future.

If anyone from the local community has any memories of either Mrs Woodman or Mrs Sollis that they would like to share, please email Alex Adcock at the following address: clerk@avening.gloucs.sch.uk and they will be included in their leaving celebrations.

At the end of term, the whole school will take part in a wellbeing walk in the local countryside and the y6 leavers will host a tea party for their families and staff, and share their personal memories of their time at Avening at the leavers' assembly on the last day. Good luck to all of our y6 leavers – we wish you all the very best in your new schools.

Alex Adcock

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

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An enhanced DBS check will be required.

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A small, happy school with a big welcome!

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The next film will be on
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**Please feel free to bring
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New! Beginners+ Adult Ballet Classes

Ever fancied giving ballet a go – or maybe getting back into it? Now's the perfect time! A few of us in the village have been working to bring a six-week adult ballet class pilot to Avening. If the uptake is good, we will look to continue in September. Join us to get moving, try something new, or reconnect with a much-loved art form.

This friendly class is 'Beginners+', so whether you're a total novice or are returning to dance, you'll fit right in. There's no need to commit to more than one session at a time, so feel free to come and try it out. If you do become a regular, as the weeks go by, you'll notice your confidence and technique growing. Ballet is a brilliant way to build strength, flexibility and balance – and have a bit of fun while you're at it.

Fridays, from 13th June to 18th July 7.30pm Avening Memorial Hall £10 per session

Contact: Jennifer Sibbald (AISTD) on 07818 293999 or jennifersibbald9@gmail.com
(www.fit4ballet.com).

This is a fantastic local opportunity to embrace the elegance and discipline of ballet.
All are welcome!

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 am.

Mobile Post Office on site from 9:30 – 11:30.



Thank you to Ian for bringing some of his bees and honey along on World Bee Day. It was fascinating to watch his bees bustling about in a see-through frame and hear all about bee keeping. There were some lovely decorated bee cakes and interesting bee facts on tables.

We were pleased to support the village Art Exhibition held in the church on 8 June with a selection of art and craft; grateful thanks to our art tutor Mark Kelland and rag rug lead Michael Metcalf. A number of visitors commented favourably on the rug display.

Plants & Produce: If you wish to donate any surplus plants or produce, then please bring along to the Café and place on the “Plant Swop” table. If you are unable to make a Tuesday then plants are also available at “Plants on a Wall” at 14 High Street. All donations received go to Café supported Charities.

July Dates

1st Henley Royal Regatta theme, + Art with Mark (£3 each, all materials supplied)

8th Wimbledon theme

15th Art with Mark (£3 each, all materials supplied).

22nd WI Bacon butties

29th Childrens Crafts

*John Hetterley
For Avening Community Café*

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Avening WI

A group of six members, one Labrador and a Labrador puppy, set off on a lovely sunny morning for a Wildflower Walk in the beautiful Avening countryside. We walked up Woodstock Lane, diagonally across the field to climb up beside Brandhouse Farm, following the footpath around the wood past Cold Harbour and Westfield barns, to arrive at the perfect picnic spot looking down over Westend and Avening. The undisturbed deep banks along the old trackways have a lovely variety of wildflowers; we recorded over 30 species (not counting the very common ones). While we walked we remembered childhood family walks and regional names for wild flowers including Batchelor's button (Cornflower), Pudding bags (Bladder campion), Keck (Cow Parsley), Queen Anne's Lace (Wild carrot) Bird's eye (Germander speedwell) and Dog daisy (Ox-eye daisy). Lesser known flowers spotted were Wild Basil, Hedgerow Cranesbill, Greater Celandine and Rockrose.



The book group met in Amberley Cafe7 to discuss 'The Wind Knows my Name' by Isabel Allende. The story intertwines past and present as the lives of the two main characters Samuel, a Kindertransport child, and Anita an Asylum seeker from El Salvador, parted from her mother at the American border, become closely connected. Half of the group members had not managed to finish the book for various reasons. Those who had read it, while not finding it an easy read regarding the theme of childhood trauma, found it interesting and highly relevant in the modern world.

By the time you read this the group walking the Cotswold Way should have completed their journey by walking the last leg into Bath. Some non-walking members plan to welcome them at Bath Abbey to celebrate their achievement. No champagne but a welcome cup of tea and cake!

Our Skittles Team have their first match of the GFWI County Skittles Competition against Stone and Woodhouse and a friendly match against Stonehouse WI. We hope that some of our newer members will give skittles a try.

We have lots of events planned for the summer: our new Gardening club members will be visiting a member's garden and enjoying tea and scones; there's a visit to Woodchester

Park House Garden (again with tea and cake!); a coach trip to Highclere Castle; our Summer Social (more tea and cake...) and the Group Meeting at Kemble and Ewen WI where the theme of the evening is the 80th Anniversary of VE and VJ days. Our Book, Theatre, Walk with lunch and Community Cafe7 groups will all be active as usual.

At the June monthly meeting the speaker was Jackie Harris who spoke on 'The Extraordinary Life of Peter Scott'. A very interesting, illustrated talk from Jackie with lots of facts about Peter's life, not only as a naturalist but as an artist, designer, sailor and family man.

Our speaker in July is Sue Dove who will tell us about 'The Life and Times of an Adult Tutor'.

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month at 7.30pm 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



- July 5** **Alfie Moore: A Face For Radio:** a surprising career shift in his mid-40s turned Alfie Moore from a street cop to the star of his own Radio 4 show "A Fair Cop". It proved an immediate success and his wealth of hilarious stories come from experiences you couldn't make up! Tickets £18 in advance. 8pm
- July 25** **The Wild Robot (U):** A children's showing of an adaptation of Peter Brown's New York Times bestseller, *The Wild Robot*. Follow the adventures of Roz the Robot shipwrecked on a desert island. Tickets £7.50 in advance. 6pm
- July 26** **Jazz with BD Lenz Trio and guest Kim Cypher:** Enjoy an evening of jazz, blues funk and soul with the acclaimed guitarist and his popular guest. Tickets £15 in advance. 7.30
- August 16** **As You Like It - Festival Players Open Air Shakespeare:** Probably the bard's most entrancing performance of mistaken identity and romance in the forest is ideal for a summer evening. Tickets £17 in advance. 7pm
- August 31** **Off The Rails:** Our popular summer festival day for all the family with music, story-telling, impromptu entertainers, street food and a beer tent....all we need is you! Tickets £8.50 in advance, under 18s free. 11-6.

Check our website for further details of films, Wednesday afternoon concerts, exhibitions, workshops and talks and to book tickets

www.tetburygoodsshed.co.uk



Churchyard FAQs

Our churchyards are cherished and sacred places — a space of peace, prayer, and reflection. Thanks to the dedication of our volunteers, they are lovingly maintained to honour those who rest there and to ensure they remain a safe and beautiful environment for everyone.

Help us care for our sacred churchyards

As a consecrated space, churchyards are governed by regulations set by the Consistory Court. These rules apply to all, including clergy, families, and funeral providers, and cover burials, the interment of ashes, and memorials. Full regulations can be found in each church or by scanning the QR code below.

Below, you will find some answers to some of the common questions and queries about churchyards.

Please contact Revd. Natalie Jennings at associate@minchchurch.org.uk or 01453 798852 for further information.



I want to install a headstone or memorial tablet. What do I do?

Please speak to a stonemason as a first port of call. There are specific regulations that govern the size, material, and wording of all memorial stones including headstones and cremated remains tablets, which local stonemasons will be familiar with. The parish priest **must** approve all applications before installation, and only memorials which adhere to the regulations will be approved.



Can I scatter my loved one's ashes?

We seek to inter ashes into the garden of remembrance or existing graves wherever possible, but it is not possible to scatter ashes in the churchyard. The parish priest **must** be consulted about all burials in the churchyard, so please make contact before planning any kind of interment.

What items can I place on a grave?

We welcome you to honour loved ones by placing fresh flowers on graves. Please remove any plastic wrapping and take away faded or dead flowers. Vases are not permitted, except for those built into approved headstones. Artificial flowers are not permitted, except for Remembrance poppies or traditional Christmas wreaths, which should be removed after two months.

What items are **not** permitted on graves?

- Grave surrounds (*e.g. edging or fencing*)
- Stone chippings or other ground coverings
- Ornaments (*except a single toy or tribute on a child's grave — to be removed after six months*)
- Trees or shrubs
- Vases
- Artificial flowers (*except for Remembrance poppies or traditional Christmas wreaths, which should be removed after two months*)
- Lights or lanterns

Do I own my family member's grave?

The land in a churchyard, including graves, is owned by the incumbent (parish priest) of the church. The family of the deceased owns memorial stones (including headstones and cremated remains tablets) and are responsible for their upkeep.

Items that don't meet these guidelines, including memorial stones, may be carefully removed and stored for collection. Unclaimed items will be respectfully disposed of after one year.

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6	7	5	1	2	9	3	8	4
2	8	1	6	7	5	4	3	9
7	5	6	9	3	4	2	1	8
9	4	3	8	1	2	6	5	7
1	6	7	2	9	8	5	4	3
5	2	8	3	4	6	7	9	1
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I got a text asking me to click on a link to reschedule a parcel delivery I'd missed. I was waiting for a parcel from Royal Mail at the time, so I clicked on the link and was asked to make a payment. Luckily, my daughter told me it was a scam and to ignore it, but I almost gave away my personal details. How can I spot the signs of this type of scam myself?



Parcel delivery scams are increasingly common. These scams can be in the form of a text, or an email or phone call. There are also reports of fake 'Something for You' cards, which Royal Mail leave when a delivery is attempted, but no-one is home.

Here are some tips on how to stay vigilant and spot scams:

- If you're waiting for a parcel and get a message that asks you to pay to get it, or reschedule the delivery, it's usually a scam.
- Don't click any links or attachments in the text or email. Delivery companies won't ask you to pay them through a link in an email or text.
- Parcel delivery scammers often pretend to be from an organisation like Royal Mail and can try to make you click on a fake version of the company's genuine website, which asks for personal information or login details - these can appear real.
- To check if a link is genuine, hover your mouse over the link without clicking on it, or press and hold on the link on a mobile device. You should be able to see the address the link goes to and check it's the same as the company's official website address.
- Make sure you check the address carefully - fake link addresses can look similar to the genuine address.
- Other signs of a message that is a scam include bad spelling and grammar, and when it starts with a general greeting instead of your name. But scam messages can sometimes be sophisticated - so don't rely on obvious mistakes only.
- If you get an email, check if the email address matches the sender's name or organisation - you might have to click on their name to see the email address.
- If there's something you're unsure about, don't feel pressured to act. You can find the official details for the company the person who has contacted you says they're from and ask the company if they've contacted you.

Falling victim to a scam can make people feel anxious or embarrassed, but remember scammers are clever and scams can happen to anyone. Reporting them helps stop scammers and prevents other people from ending up in the same situation.

The Village Notice Board

The village notice board, on the side of the Memorial Hall, is a good way of publicising village events and items of local information. Posters, ideally size A4 or A5, can be put up for you on this board. They can be delivered to John and Sandra Hetterley, 2, Orchard Field or given to them directly. They will be taken down once they are out of date. Other posters may be removed and recycled once they are faded or to make space for others.

Hedge Cutting: Where hedges are obstructing public pathways, please cut them back. Overgrown hedges can be very dangerous causing pedestrians to walk into the road.

Parking on Pavements: Parking on pavements is dangerous and illegal. It causes children to walk in the road.

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

New Planning Applications

25/01259/FUL - 12 Star Lane - Erection of detached dwelling with associated works - Object

25/01387/FUL Plum Patch Cottage 7 Star Lane Erection of self-build dwelling (previously approved 21/02282/FUL) - Support

Cotswold District Council Planning Decisions

25/01481/NONMAT 12A Star Lane Non-Material Amendment (design) to permission

24/01031/FUL - Erection of a residential dwelling - Variation of condition 2 (Approved plans) of planning permission 21/03751/FUL – Permitted

25/01401/TCONR Rodways Place Point Road Reduce Box tree – No Objection

25/00694/COMPLY 51 Nags Head Lane Compliance with condition 4 (details) of planning 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 listed building consent 24/01180/LBC - Alterations and extensions to convert garage, erection of canopy and relocation of parking area and existing vehicular access – Application Permitted

25/00473/FUL The Barn Gatcombe View Stable Woodstock Lane Conversion of a barn to a dwelling (Part Retrospective) Application Permitted

Roads and Footpaths: If you see a fault on the footpaths or the roads, please report it on Fix My Street.

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

Dog Fouling: If you witness dog fouling not being picked up by the owner please report by following the link below

<https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/environment/litter-street-cleaning-and-dog-fouling/>

Neighbourhood Policing Team

Police Seargent Garrett Gloyn, PC Chris Pritchard, PCSO Edmund Maina

101@gloucestershire.police.uk

The Agenda and minutes can be viewed at www.avening-pc.gov.uk

The Parish Clerk can be contacted via email: 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
Avening Church bell ringing	Monday	8.00-9.00pm	Church bell tower	Andrew Lelliott 07726 345516
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 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
Beginners+ Adult Ballet Classes	Fridays up to 18th July	7.30pm	Memorial Hall	Jennifer Sibbald 07818 293999
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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