

# The Villager

A Magazine for Avening,  
Cherington and Nags Head



September 2022

*[editors@villagermag.online](mailto:editors@villagermag.online)*



Leaf & Dig presents an early evening with:

# Troy Scott Smith

Head Gardener, Sissinghurst Castle Garden



## Reimagining Vita Sackville-West's Sissinghurst: A Garden Rediscovered

Join us in the Nordic Teepee at Wild Carrot to hear about Troy Scott Smith's life-time of gardening and what has pulled him back to Sissinghurst Castle Garden over the last three decades, twice as Head Gardener. He'll describe the work the Sissinghurst gardening team, at this most celebrated English garden, are doing to take the garden back to a period that Troy believes was the garden at its peak. Troy's talk will be followed by a Q&A.

Tickets £20 or £18 with "The Villager" Discount.

**Date:** 2nd October 3.30pm- 5.45pm

**Location:** Wild Carrot, Chavenage

**Tickets in advance:** [leafanddig.com/events](https://leafanddig.com/events)

**10% Discount code:** TheVillager (enter at checkout)



# September 2022

What a month we have had! We have enjoyed endless days of sunshine, but watched in horror as our precious plants have wilted. Even our famous Duck Race, which is normally one of the highlights of the Avening Fete, is unlikely to happen. There is simply no water into which the ducks can be launched. We are doubtless beginning to realise how difficult life must be for countless millions, who live in countries where rain is always scarce.

On a brighter note, the Café has kept going during this summer and they have had the delight of giving two of their most popular members, Jim Hill and Derrick Ind, their heartfelt congratulations on their Important Birthdays!

Having had the excitement of the Cherington Fete in July, the Avening Fete is here again and as we write, we are looking forward to a happy day, enjoying everything that will be on offer and also the Art Exhibition, which offers many of our talented friends the opportunity to show all of us their remarkable work.

September means the start of the new school year and we wish every success to all students, both at our Primary School and those moving on to their Secondary Schools or further education, including University. September also sees the return of the Avening Cinema Club - details further on in this edition.

*The Villager Editors*

## The Villager Magazine

**Editors** Jane Archer (07812 137161), Frances Conway (01453 832177) and Derrick Pierce (01453 835090).

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## Photographs in The Villager Magazine

Many thanks to **Jim Moyle** for the photo of a busy bumble bee on the front cover .

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

[editors@villagemag.online](mailto:editors@villagemag.online)



# **Avening Church Fete Raffle**

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Tickets £5 per book or £1 each from Stephanie Hamilton,  
Elizabeth Buchanan, Steve Uzzell and Nick Winkfield or at the  
Fete



## **HIGHLIGHTS FOR September**

Every Wednesday afternoon from 2pm music from a range of performers. £2.50. Tea and cake available!

## **Off The Rails Free Festival 2022**

Whatever else you've got planned for Sunday 4 September, give yourself a generous dollop of time to come on down to our second "Off the Rails" FREE festival.



# Regular Activities in the Villages

Items struck through are temporarily suspended. Would organisers please let us know when they restart.

Event	Day	Time	Where	Contact
Community Café	Tuesday	9.30 - 11.30am	Social Club	Gill Adams 07826 291759
Mobile Post Office	Tuesday	10.30am - 12.30pm	Social Club car park	
Cherington PC	Tuesday bi-monthly	6.00pm	Zoom	Richard Smith
<del>Bell Ringing</del>	<del>Tuesday</del>	<del>7.30 - 9.00pm</del>	<del>Church Bell Tower</del>	<del>Andrew 01453 835783</del>
Line Dancing	Tuesday	8.00 - 9.30 pm	Social Club	Social Club 01453 833760
Avening Youth Club	Every Tuesday in term time	6.00 - 7.30pm	Avening Memorial Hall	01453 756745
Churchyard tidy up	Wednesday	6.00 - 7.00pm	Holy Cross churchyard	Churchwardens
Avening PC	3rd 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
Charity Quiz	1st Saturday each month	8.00pm	The Bell	
Avening Angels Choir	Sunday	4.30pm	tba	Derrick Pierce 01453 835090

# Contacts for the Villages

Avening & Cherington Churches Reader	Derrick Pierce	01453 835090
Avening Angels	Derrick Pierce	01453 835090
Avening Baby & Toddler group	Katy Upton	07806 614753
Avening Bell Tower Captain	Andrew Lelliott	01453 835783
Avening Church Churchwardens	Elizabeth Buchanan Elizabeth Fuller	01453 833016 01453 835067
Avening Church Flower Team	Gill Adams	01453 833175
Avening Church Organist		
Avening Church PCC Treasurer	Nicholas Winkfield	07885 139275
Avening Cinema Club	Sophie or Sue	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		07583 073604
Avening Oil Coordinator	Frances Lindley	01453 835115
Avening Parish Council Clerk	Shani Baker	07415 039234
Avening Playgroup	Angie Heslop	01453 832695
Avening Primary School	Jane Rushton	01453 833191
Avening Silver Band	Jim Hill	01453 834438
Avening Social Club	Derrick Ind	01453 835752
Avening WI	Liz Knowles	01453 833803



Avening Youth Club	The Door	01453 756745
Cherington Village Hall	Camilla Trotter	07545 054160
Cherington Parish Council Clerk	Richard Smith	Cheringtonparishcouncil @yahoo.co.uk
Cherington Church Churchwardens	Helen Di Mauro Claudia Unger	07796 937268 07867 350122
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
Community Café Crop Swap	Chandy Rodgers	Chandra.rodgers65@ gmail.com 07734 971211
Cotswold District Councillor	Richard Morgan	richard.morgan @cotswold.gov.uk 07483 835137
Friends of Avening School	Nicky Dill	01453 833191
Over 60s Lunch Club	Christine Howell	01453 833246
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](http://www.avening-pc.gov.uk)**

**Cherington Parish Council: [cheringtonpc.org.uk](http://cheringtonpc.org.uk).**

**Cherington Village: [www.cheringtonvillage.co.uk](http://www.cheringtonvillage.co.uk)**

**Cotswold District Council: [www.cotswold.gov.uk](http://www.cotswold.gov.uk)**



# Letter From Avening Parish Council Leader



A date for your diaries; Sunday 11th September is the **Church/Village Fete**. Always an enjoyable experience meeting up with neighbours and fellow villagers. After the recent dry weather, the duck race may be at some risk but I'm sure an alternative format can be arranged if necessary. I notice that an optimistic banner is already in place promoting the appearance of the ducks. Fingers crossed.

**Villager of the Year Award** – Is there someone in the village that you would like to be recognised for their contribution to the community. It's a nice way of saying thank you for works that may otherwise go unacknowledged. Any nominations please, asap to [parishclerk@avening-pc.gov.uk](mailto:parishclerk@avening-pc.gov.uk).

**Memorial Hall** – Taking advantage of the school holiday break, various works were completed in the first two weeks; there are some electrical updates to finish, subject to the various experts being available. The main hall and Chamberlain room have now been redecorated. This included extensive repairs to walls prior to painting and the installing of a new door to the cellar, together with a new exterior door frame to the double entrance doors into the Chamberlain room. Outside we have also put in a 'French drain' (a deep trench filled with gravel) along the south side in an effort to alleviate the problem of persistent rising damp in the south wall. New LED ceiling lights have replaced the old fluorescent strip lights making the hall much brighter with a lower running cost. My special thanks to Mickel and his team of workers for the effort they put into the project.

**Playing Field** – Really good to see that the first of the two Play Gloucestershire's - Play Rangers events went very well. All the children looked to be enjoying the variety of games and the weather was kind as well.

**Roads Issues** – Requests for some traffic calming signs on Star Lane to reduce the risk caused by the blind corners and speeding drivers have been rejected by Highways. Their view is that all drivers should be aware of the hazards of driving in country lanes. On that premise, once we have passed our driving tests, we all become perfect drivers, not experienced it myself yet! We will keep asking; as the saying goes 'it's the squeaky wheel that gets the oil'.

**Tour of Britain (& Avening!)** – The riders and their entourage pass through Avening on 9<sup>th</sup> Sept at approximately 1.00pm; the riders will be coming past Minchinhampton Golf Club and then left at The Matilda and up Tetbury Hill. The new surface on Tetbury Hill is reminiscent of motoring in bygone years prior to the plague of potholes we now have to endure; make the most of the opportunity as we know that this stretch can't be interfered with until at least 9<sup>th</sup> Sept. I wonder how long it will be until the first trench is needed?

**The Stream** – Tony Slater is our nominated Parish Councillor for the environment and



has written an update as a separate article in this copy of the Villager which I would ask you to read. Please come back to Tony with any comments, questions or views.

**Planning** – There are new plans being proposed for the site of The Old Quarries. The developers are holding an exhibition of the scheme in the Memorial Hall on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> Aug, which I know is before the date of this publication; however, if you want details they will be available in due course from Cotswold District Council.

As previously advised there was no Parish Council Meeting this month and as such there is no Parish Clerk's Report. The next PC meeting is in September and monthly thereafter.

Best wishes to everyone.

**Patrick Mulligan (Mob: 07713 068436)**  
**Chairman of Avening Parish Council**



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# Avening and Cherington Churches

After a month of real summer weather, we welcome you back, hoping you have enjoyed your time with friends and family. The month has raced by.

There will be mixed emotions as the children start back to playgroup or school. On Tuesday September 6th, our annual Tea and Tissues social will take place in the church from 8:40am. Parents, grandparents and carers can drop the children off at the school gate or at playgroup and join us for coffee, tea, cake and chat. We will be there until 10:30 for a chance to meet up with other families, talk through problems or solutions and enjoy a bit of a break. Toys will be out for young children.

Avening Church Fete will be held on Sunday, September 11th, at 2pm near the church. Including games for the children, Elegant Sausages, a wonderful Dog Show, the famous Duck Races, bargains galore, the Great Art Show and with the Avening Silver Band in attendance: It is a great day out. In the church there will also be a display from the Church Archives for you to look through.

Holy Cross Church dates from at least the year 1080, and the feast of the Holy Cross is our church Feast Day. We will celebrate together on Sunday, September 18th with a special service devised by the Maslens, followed by drinks and cake in the church. Please do join us at 10 am for this village party.

On the last Sunday of September we hope you will come along to the church to celebrate the Harvest Festival, again at 10am. God has blessed us with the earth's bounty, all around us here in the country. It is distressing to know that there are many people in need, even in our own community. If you can, please bring a donation for the Food Bank to the service and we will deliver it to the Food Bank in the following few days. The Flower Team would be very grateful for any produce you can offer them for decorating the church. Please would you bring the produce to the church on Friday?

After the service, we will hold another party, with drinks and nibbles.

Suddenly, September is offering us opportunities to get out and about! We're looking forward to it all.

***Elizabeth Buchanan and Liz Fuller, Churchwardens***

**To arrange a christening, wedding or funeral** in either Avening or Cherington Church, please get in touch with the Benefice Office in Minchinhampton: [admin@minchchurch.org.uk](mailto:admin@minchchurch.org.uk) 01453 889004

Vicki Hayward is the admin officer and will be happy to help you make arrangements.

**Found in the churchyard: a pair of scissors. Ring Elizabeth on 833016 if they are yours.**



## Church Services

4 <sup>th</sup> Sept. 10.00am	Morning Prayer	Pet Service with Holy Communion Led by Bishop Robert
11 <sup>th</sup> Sept. 10.00 am	No Service Avening Church Fete	Holy Communion
18 <sup>th</sup> Sept. 10.00 am	Holy Communion	No Service
25 <sup>th</sup> Sept 10.00am	Holy Communion HARVEST FESTIVAL	No Service
1 <sup>st</sup> October Saturday 5.00pm		HARVEST FESTIVAL
2 <sup>nd</sup> October 10.00am	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion

## From the Church Registers

We welcomed Amelia Dorothy Ruth John into the Church Family at her Baptism in Avening on July 23rd

### ‘Tea and Tissues’ 6<sup>th</sup> September 2022



Whether celebrating or commiserating your child's first day ever or first day back to school - **We're here!**

Come along after drop off from **8.40-10.30 in Avening Church** for a comforting cuppa and some delicious cake and start the term off right!

Doors will be open and tissues will be available. Grandparents, Parents, Carers, Siblings - All are welcome!

We look forward to seeing you.

# Puzzle Corner

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

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## 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.

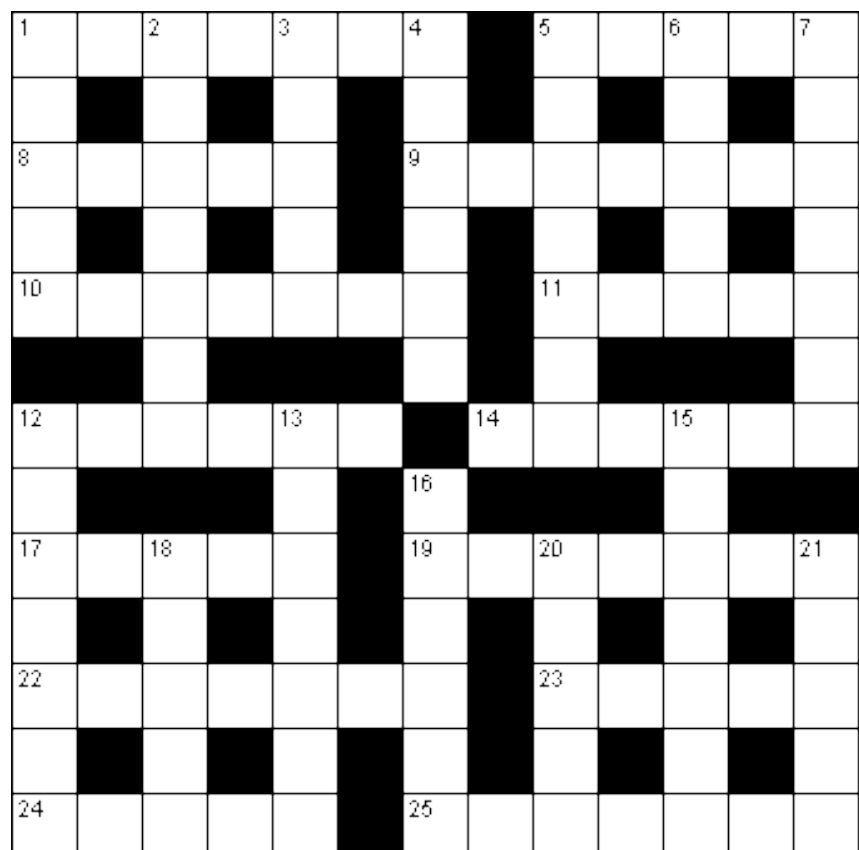
*Answers on page 33*

## Across

1. Gallantry (7)
5. Subsequently (5)
8. Extreme happiness (5)
9. Considered unlikely (7)
10. Pills (7)
11. Paragon (5)
12. Gaped (6)
14. Concurs (6)
17. Proverb (5)
19. Recite (7)
22. Feed (7)
23. Water lily (5)
24. Frock (5)
25. Use again after processing (7)

## Down

1. Established custom (5)
2. Arc of refracted light (7)
3. Publish (5)
4. Humble (6)
5. Risible (7)



6. Heading (5)
7. Conundrums (7)
12. Hankered (7)
13. Foes (7)
15. Flexible (7)

16. Fix firmly (6)
18. Angle less than 90 degrees (5)
20. Something that has survived the past (5)
21. Follow (5)



# Gilian's Poem of the Month

Copper, 31, and Casper, 28, were two old ponies who spent a happy Autumn retirement together, in a sheltered paddock along Westend.

In their younger days they taught many village children to ride, and gave hours of pleasure and enjoyment in lessons, on countryside hacks, at Pony Club rallies, and competing in local gymkhanas, shows, and events.

Those children are now grown up, with children of their own, but many will still have fond memories of Copper and Casper...

## Golden Days

As the sun's first tender rays  
Break through the mists of dawn,  
Copper and Casper stretch old limbs,  
And wake to a golden morn.

As opal skies turn hazy blue  
They graze on the dewy grass,  
Copper and Casper, warm in the sun,  
As their Autumn day's drift past.

When noonday sunshine blazes down  
They seek the shady trees,  
Copper and Casper, dozing now,  
Cooled by a gentle breeze.

Then, in the heat of the afternoon,  
They drink from the flowing stream,  
Copper and Casper, at peace with their world,  
As they stand together, and dream.

And in the golden evening light  
They remember those days gone by.  
Copper and Casper, side by side,  
As the red sun sinks in the sky.

At last as the scented darkness falls,  
As bright stars shine high above,  
Copper and Casper, together forever,  
Sleep on ...remembered with love.....

*Gilian Bulmer-Davison*

# Letters to the Editors

Hello all, my name is Krista Jones. I have been a resident of Avening for 5 years now. After receiving a surprise offer to run on behalf of a charity, I have decided to take on the mammoth task of running the London Marathon! I will be representing Cancer Research UK, a charity that means a lot to me. Cancer has affected me in several ways, including losing my mother to breast cancer, but last year I became a survivor myself.



In June of 2021, I was diagnosed with cervical cancer. I still struggle to put my experience into words, but it was shocking, devastating and, thankfully, brief. Thanks to the brilliant and urgent care I received, I was cancer-free just 2.5 weeks after my diagnosis. I feel so incredibly lucky that my cancer story had such an amazing outcome, but I know that many have a much tougher cancer journey. That's why I felt compelled to fundraise and run for Cancer Research UK; so that more people can have an outcome like mine.

I have currently raised £1,010 of my £2,000 goal. Anyone who could spare time to visit my fundraising page or make a donation would be most greatly appreciated. Not only by me, but by those who will ultimately be helped by your generosity. You can get in touch with me via my phone number (07824428527), my email ([leffersk@gmail.com](mailto:leffersk@gmail.com)), or donate via my fundraising page (<https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/kristas-london-marathon>). And if you see me running all around Avening during my training, wish me luck! I could use all the encouragement I can get to make it to that start line October 2. Thank you for reading!

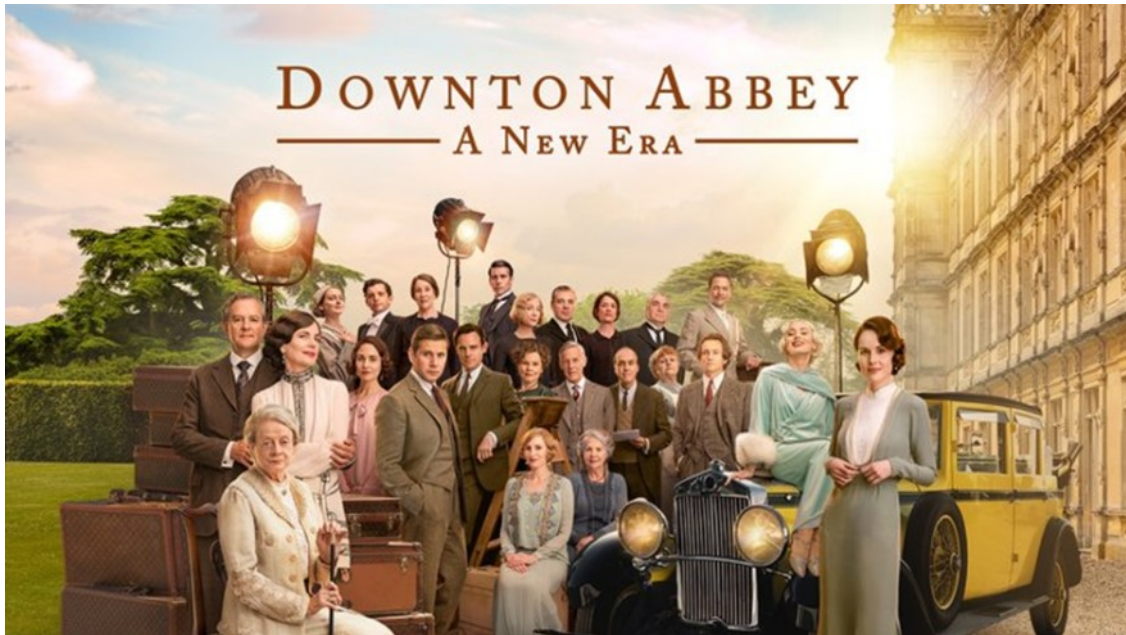
Krista Jones

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# AVENINGCINEMA CLUB



**WEDNESDAY 28th September**  
**Doors open 7pm. Film starts 7.30pm**  
**AVENING MEMORIAL HALL**  
**Admission £5**

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

Contact us at [aveningcinemaclub@gmail.com](mailto:aveningcinemaclub@gmail.com)

The film club is a not for profit community event. Any profit made after screening/  
licence costs will be donated to local charities

## Sandford Trust

Small grants are available from the Sandford Trust, a charity for local young people going on to university or work based training. I would welcome applications from anyone living in the parish of Avening, on or before 9<sup>th</sup> September, after which the annual distribution of funds will be made.

Applications should be made in writing, by the claimant, to:



Mrs Kelly Wilkinson  
Larch House  
Pound Hill  
Avening  
Gloucestershire  
GL8 8LZ





# Avening Playgroup

As usual, the work does not stop for the staff during the summer holiday. It is a time to catch up with paperwork and training. There have also been some adjustments to the Keeping Children Safe in Education document and to the Early Years Foundation Stage which means we have to update policies and procedures.

Staff are also looking at how resources are stored and presented, and updating labels and photos so that the children can easily identify what resources are where.

During the summer we have also secured a new supplier for our staff uniform and the samples we have been shown look great!

Great news! The playgroup has been very fortunate to receive a grant from the Avening Church of England Educational Fund (ACEEF) and we would like to thank them very much for this. This will be used to improve the outdoor area which is looking worn and tired. Initially, we will have the playground repainted and are looking forward to seeing some brighter and additional animals, games and signs.

Please note that playgroup will start back on Wednesday 7th September 2022 and the Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 20th September 2022 at 7pm. We have a very welcoming committee and would be very grateful for any help or support people can offer in a whole range of areas. Please do come along to the AGM if you are a parent of a child attending the playgroup or if you are interested in supporting this vital community service.

For more information about the playgroup please call 01453 832695 (term time only) or email [aveningplaygroup@gmail.com](mailto:aveningplaygroup@gmail.com)

**Angie Heslop**

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[chimcheroonailsworth@gmail.com](mailto:chimcheroonailsworth@gmail.com)





# The Play Gloucestershire Play Rangers come to Avening!

The hazy lazy days of summer were enlivened when, on two Fridays in August, the Play Rangers arrived at the playing field in the blue Play Bus. They were soon unpacking and setting up a shady tarpaulin. We knew they could cope with rain but had not anticipated a heatwave! One of the days was particularly hot but they had a good supply of water and parents were on hand to provide a top up if required. Children and families started

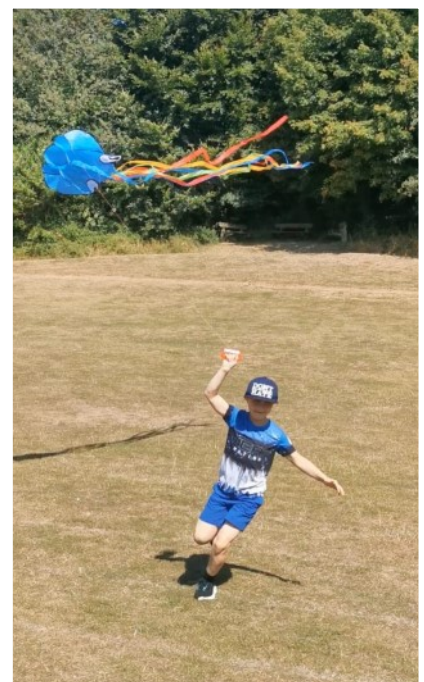
to arrive from all directions and were soon engaged in whichever

play took their fancy. Among other things they enjoyed badminton, tug o'war, skipping games with the long rope, water fights, bubble blowing and, in the shade, there were quieter activities, painting and creating a world with toys and shaving foam! And of course, some of them enjoyed using the increasing range of play apparatus now provided in the playing field.

Comments from people at the time included: 'the children loved it', 'lots of people turned up, everyone is looking forward to next week', 'really good and well attended.',

'the play rangers were lovely!', 'I got really hot playing football and the ranger gave me a drink of water'.

The two Play Days were jointly funded by the Parish Council and Avening Church of England Education Fund..





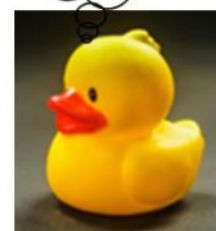


# AVENING CHURCH FETE & FUN DOG SHOW

Sunday 11th September

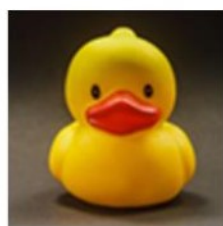


at 2.00pm.



Famous Duck races • Raffle

Bottle tombola • Delicious Cakes



Teas • The Elegant Sausage  
Childrens Area • Bric-A-  
Brac

& Much more

With an exhibition in the church of local  
projects, artwork & Avening history with  
photographs



WOW!!

For details of stalls and offers of help  
contact Stephanie email  
stephanie2432@hotmail.co.uk

For the exhibition details from George Buchanan  
email buchanan.pg@gmail.com

**Remember to bring your four legged friends to the  
Village Fete Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September.**

**Agility course from 2pm and the Fun Dog Show from  
2.40pm.**



**Events include:**

***The friendliest puppy***

***Best veteran dog***

***Best rescued dog***

***Best child handler***



## **Avening Village Archive at the Church**

Would you like to explore the village archive? Or search for your Avening ancestors? Come along to the church on the afternoon of the Church Fete and Art Show, Sunday 11 September. There'll be lots of old photos of Pig Face Day feasts and other village events on display, and census returns and parish records available for family history research. You'll be able to look through the material collected on many aspects of village life. I'll be on hand to help if needed.

***Jean Chatelain***

## **THE GREAT AVENING EXHIBITION**

Once again there will be a Great Exhibition of Artwork held in Avening Church!

The private view will be on Saturday 10th of September, and the Great Exhibition and the Fete will be the following day, the 11th.

Artists, Photographers and Craftsmen should bring their exhibits to the Church on Saturday afternoon, 10th September, from 2pm-4.30pm.

No more than six entries per person, please.

There is no hanging fee.







## Write a Will Scheme During September

**Write a Will this September, and ensure your loved ones are looked after in the future**

Longfield Community Hospice has teamed up with three local solicitors to offer a Write a Will scheme during September. Longfield is a Community Hospice based in Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire. As well as providing Hospice at Home care, Longfield also offers help and support to patients, families and carers through a range of Wellbeing services at the hospice in Minchinhampton. For media enquiries, please contact Jo Fairburn, Media and Communications Officer at [jo.fairburn@longfield.org.uk](mailto:jo.fairburn@longfield.org.uk) or call 01453 886868.

Writing a Will is one important way to make sure loved ones are taken care of in the future, but many of us still haven't done it.

The hospice has teamed up with three local solicitors to make writing or amending your Will easy and affordable. Throughout September, each solicitor is giving their time for free to support the hospice's work. Instead of paying legal fees, people taking part in the scheme will make a much-needed donation to help patients and families across Gloucestershire. The suggested donation is £90 for a single basic Will and £160 for a pair of basic 'mirror' Wills.



"We'd like to say a huge thank you to the solicitors for getting involved and supporting Longfield in this way," said Rachel Jones, Head of Fundraising and Marketing. "By giving their time and expertise for free, they're helping us provide care for families across Gloucestershire when they need it the most."

"We're also grateful to everyone who chooses to leave a gift in their Will to Longfield, which is not a mandatory part of the scheme. It's an incredibly generous gesture and means we can continue our vital work supporting patients, families and carers, now and in the future."

To find out more about the Write a Will scheme, visit [www.longfield.org.uk/write-a-will](http://www.longfield.org.uk/write-a-will) or call the team on 01453 886868.



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## Stream Update

Readers will probably be aware that we have had 'low flow' events with the stream for just over two years, and that earlier this summer the stream dried up completely. Sudden low flow events have been caused by works at both Aston Farm in Cherington, and Avening Court, but despite working with the Environment Agency (EA) during this time the main cause of the stream's death has never been identified.



*By the Club in  
Woodstock Lane*



*Steve Pryor feeds stranded  
trout by Avening Mill*

Two requests to Avening Court this summer to release water from their pond system have been ignored (repairs to their dam caused the flow to stop completely this summer), and the leaky new stream path at Aston still loses much of the spring water before it gets to Cherington Lake. The EA continue working through legal and retrospective planning requirements with the estate in regards to the new pond and earthworks.

However, these are likely only to be contributory factors, so I put this to the EA asking what they thought was the main cause, and if the additional 800 houses in Tetbury could be draining the aquifer that feeds our system? Their response was less than helpful, suggesting the main cause was 'climate change', and that I should contact the water authority for Tetbury to find where they sourced their water.

I have politely but firmly pointed out that it is actually their job to understand the impacts of housing development on the environment, and that the stream has never before in living memory dried up, even during the longer, hotter drought of 1976! I have requested a proper response from them and will share this when received (my questions and the EA response are available on the website).

Meanwhile, I would like to thank the dedicated stream watchers in the village for reporting issues to the EA and keeping me up to date with the desperate plight of the dependent wildlife – it was only 2 summers ago that we had otters in the Sandford Leaze section!



*By the Memorial Hall*

**Tony Slater**

email: [tony.slater@avening-pc.gov.uk](mailto:tony.slater@avening-pc.gov.uk) Web: [www.avening-pv.gov.uk](http://www.avening-pv.gov.uk)

## Playing Bridge During the Pandemic

Playing bridge at a friendly club (such as the one in Wotton) usually involves playing about eight sets of three hands, each set against different opponents. During an evening's (or afternoon's) session you will meet many other members, hence it is a very social activity as well as being intellectually challenging.



Then, in March 2020, came the pandemic! Umpteen thousands of bridge clubs around the world had to close their doors, for well over a year as it turned out. How would the countless millions of bridge players get their bridge fix – bridge is very addictive? The solution for the vast majority of players was to go online and bridge is very well suited to this. Various online platforms had been around for many years, but they all had to make very significant upgrades to their systems to cope with the sudden massive influx of players. The largest system was an American one called 'Bridge Base Online'. At any time of day or night, there could be more than 10,000 people somewhere in the world playing bridge on BBO. The main drawback to all these systems, however, is that you can't see other players or talk to them – you can only converse using "chat" boxes (as you do with text messages); although you could have a WhatsApp group running alongside, or even a Zoom meeting.

The most remarkable achievement, however, was that of 'RealBridge', a platform that was developed from scratch, in the UK, initially by just two people, in less than a year. This platform, from the outset, included a built-in facility to literally see and talk to the other players at the table. This was the nearest you could get to playing live bridge, simulating a club environment. RealBridge is now used by 600 clubs world-wide.

One very interesting side-effect of playing online is that Richard (one of our members) can play with his brother John, who lives in Stafford, without either leaving their sofa! Andy and Julie moved away to Newcastle just before the pandemic, but they still play (online) with the club in Chipping Sodbury. There is nothing actually stopping four people playing together – each living in a different country!

Online bridge has kept many bridge players entertained and occupied throughout the pandemic, but the result is a changed world – online bridge will remain an inherent part of almost every club's offering from hereon.

Wotton Bridge Club went back to meeting "face-to-face" in September last year but had to close again in early December as the Omicron variant became prevalent. We re-opened in March this year, once again playing at the Civic Centre every Wednesday evening. We have retained, however, an additional weekly online session on Monday evenings. We also have two online afternoon sessions per week, primarily for less-experienced players, and are once again going to offer lessons starting this autumn.

If you're looking for a fun activity, why not come and join us? Further information is available on the Wotton Club's website – [www.bridgewebs.com/wotton](http://www.bridgewebs.com/wotton) or ask Avening resident Tim Payne (tc.payne@icloud.com).

## Howzat....Not Out Rule 23



Every time I pass the old Cricket Ground in Cherington I get a whiff of nostalgia and think of all the good times and friends I had and made while playing cricket. Sadly the playing was taken away by the current owners refusal to allow the noble game to be played anymore on the ground where for decades cricket was played.

Howzat...Not out Rule 23 came about one day when a lady umpire, who to this day I have never seen again in local cricket, was asked in the time honoured fashion, Howzat, which for the non-cricket people means the fielding side

have asked for a decision about if the batsman was in or out. So she delivered the verdict, Not Out Rule 23....well, for a moment there was stunned silence as no one on the fielding side wanted to admit they didn't know what rule 23 was. Then someone either bravely or otherwise asked what the rule was....she just smiled and said Not Out Rule 23...common sense. This lady was very good at the task in hand and had a wicked sense of humour.

I must have been about 11 or 12 years old when my father John came home and announced that Avening was to have a cricket team, formed by Arthur Winters, the village policeman, Don Hopes, Colin Chesterman, Lionel Anderton and himself with some initial financial aid being provided by Noel Maslin. Games were to be played on the football ground at the top of Tetbury hill (sadly another village asset that is no more) My father was the first Avening Fixture Secretary and his dogged efforts resulted in gaining all the initial fixtures.

As the ground was used by the football club it was difficult or near impossible to play on a grass wicket so all the games were played on a Coconut matting which was very unique in the area and teams liked to play us for the experience of playing on a matt.

In the early years before the football pavilion was ready for use the cricket teas were taken in the Memorial Hall, provided by the players wives and partners — always a good spread, a tradition which was carried on right up until the end of play at Cherington. However, in those days tea was dispensed from a tea urn but on the first occasion nobody had thought about a bag to hold the tea leaves, tea bags not being around in those days. To overcome this omission one of the tea ladies who shall remain nameless whipped off her tights and put the tea leaves in them and into the urn. No one mentioned this to the players and the ladies were praised for their efforts...needless to say those who knew didn't drink the tea!

Cricket was always and is still a very social game; by that I mean we always ended up in the local pub and we had one advantage over many teams in that Don Hopes could play the piano, which most pubs had in those days, so a good sing song was always had which made the beer flow more easily.

There were always incidents which caused mirth and merriment and sometimes a bit of niggle as well, one such event being when Charlie Uzzell, running backwards trying to



take a catch out in the deep field, failed to realise how close he was to the river before he fell in, much to everyone's joy. Similarly, Dave Stratford when umpiring at Andoversford was told by the opposing batsman that we had never beaten them. Two minutes later the last man batting had his pads rattled and the shout of Howzat went up and as Dave raised his finger to signal the batsman was out he remarked to the other batsman..."well, we have now!" Didn't go down too well.

Over the years there were many very good players and one such player, sadly no longer with us, was my very good friend Mark Townsend, more commonly known as Kermit. Great left arm bowler, lightning in the field and very handy with the bat and he also had a wicked sense of humour. Well, playing cricket was where Mark got the nickname Kermit from. One day a young aspiring cricketer turned up to play for the first time all dressed in green clothing, so the shout went up "Kermit's arrived", the name stuck and forever after that he was, and is, affectionately known as Kermit.

Over the years Avening and later on Avening and Cherington as they amalgamated produced many fine cricketers and always had a proud reputation for being a very good team to play and were backed up by all the unsung heroes who ran the club, prepared the ground, and the wonderful band of tea ladies providing such excellent teas.

The annual cricket club dinner held at the Social Club in Avening was always a grand affair and we were fortunate to have had in the past guest speakers such as John Simpson the well known TV journalist, and Dominic Lawson, son of Nigel Lawson, the Ex Chancellor of the Exchequer, who played for us on a Sunday and who usually brought all sorts of well-known people and celebrities down from London with him.

Having played for 30 years, being involved with the Cricket Club provided me and others with a 'social glue' where good friends were found and good times had, which is greatly missed as I loved to watch the younger guys playing and there were always people who attended the games from the past where we used to catch up and reminisce. This pleasure sadly now a thing of the past.

As a final comment I would ask that if you are fortunate to have a few 'bob' and a bit of land to spare to think twice before undoing decades of pleasure had by so many, Country life is not all about building castles and walls to hide behind; it's about being part of a community.

*Ian Hamilton*



## **Avening Youth Club**



The Youth Club will start again on Tuesday September 13th, 6-7:30pm in the Memorial Hall. All children aged 8 to 14 are welcome.

The Subscription is now £1.00 per session, thanks to the generosity of the Parish Council.

# Avening Community Café



During August we welcomed visitors, new residents, walkers and younger families. The Social Club proved to be a cool venue during the heatwave and we even added iced coffee to the menu! Our Commonwealth Games themed café on 2 August was well attended and it was great to see a number of children participating in making medals and colouring.



We were pleased to congratulate Derrick Ind on his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday with a card and cake and once again express gratitude for all he does to support the Café.

Members have enjoyed the social get-togethers at the Friday evening summer skittles run by the Social Club, but don't mention the Café team score!

**The Café is open every Tuesday for coffee, homemade cakes, a chat and knit & natter from 9 to 11:30am in the Social Club. Mobile Post Office on site from 10:30 – 12:15.**

## **WHAT'S ON IN SEPTEMBER - Highlights**

**Sept 6: Tour of Britain theme** (cycling race due through Avening on 9 Sept)

**Sept 20: Art with Mark** 9:30 to 11:30am, £3 per session, all materials provided.

**Sept 27: Macmillan Coffee Morning** – join us today and support this national fundraising event – all profits to Macmillan Cancer Support.

Also visit “The Book Box” (Old Hill) and “Plants on the Wall” (High Street).

*Follow us on Facebook for one-off events and other news.*

**John Hetterley  
for Avening Community Café**

## **Avening's Amazing Technicolour Dream rug!**

Come along and have a go at the Community Rug Project at the Café every Tuesday morning.

Work together to help to create a giant rag and wool rug by pegging your own small square, using the materials provided, or bringing your own material, or that odd ball of leftover wool, to make your own unique contribution. Free latch-hooks, materials, and tuition available.

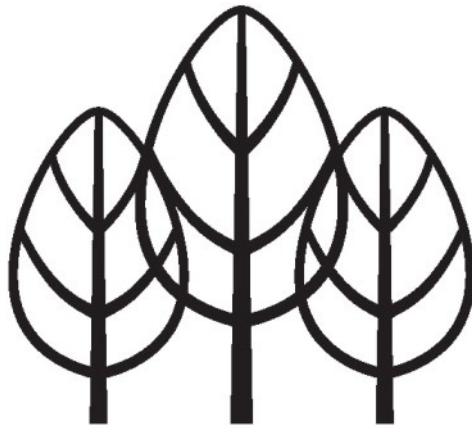
The finished rug will be displayed at the Great Exhibition in September, and will then be used for a community project e.g. possibly as an extra wall hanging in the Social Club, to help to absorb some of the noise!



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# Avening WI

Following their visit to Avening last year, Stonehouse WI extended a warm welcome to our members to join them for a historical walk around Stonehouse and an afternoon tea in a member's garden. The weather was as warm as the welcome when 16 of our members and a similar number of Stonehouse ladies set off from the old Crown and Anchor pub, now a doctor's surgery, for a tour of the many interesting buildings around the town. We learned that Stonehouse was famous for brickmaking in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, due to the availability of the raw materials, and saw several buildings built with the local bricks. We also visited a beautiful community garden on the site of a former chapel, a very peaceful spot tucked away behind the shops on the main street. We ended our walk in the stunning gardens belonging to a Stonehouse member where shady gazebos had been set out and we were revived with drinks and a huge selection of homemade cakes. A very enjoyable afternoon.



Our next meeting in September will be on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 pm when Susan Parslow will give an illustrated talk on the Highlights of Bath. Susan is a Blue Badge guide for the south of England who loves to share fascinating stories about long ago events and the colourful characters who have impacted on the development of Britain.

Our group will be serving cream teas, cakes and drinks in the newly refurbished Memorial Hall during the Avening Village Fete on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September. We also offer a Bite to Eat catering service for other events in the village – for details see our advert elsewhere in the magazine.

For more information about Avening WI or any of our events please contact our secretary Soo at [aveningwi@gmail.com](mailto:aveningwi@gmail.com) New members and visitors are always welcome.

***Helen Haiselden***

## The Village Notice Board

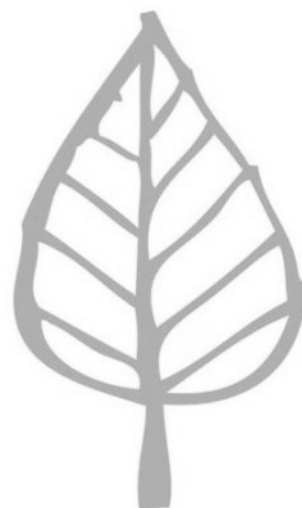
The village notice board, on the side of the Memorial Hall, is a good way of publicising village events and items of local information. Posters, ideally size A4 or A5, can be put up for you on this board. They can be delivered to John and Sandra Hetterley 2, Orchard Field or given to them directly. They 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.





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# Down Memory Lane



Pig Face Day was traditionally held every few years in September in Avening, so here's a photo of Arthur Harrison carrying the torch at the Pig's Face Sunday Feast. Sometime in the 1960s. If anyone can add further details, please feel free to let us know.

Many thanks to Alison Clarke and the Old Avening and Cherington Facebook page for this photo.

## Tetbury Music Festival

As a charity, the Tetbury Music Festival finds it indispensable to have the support of the wider community. If you enjoy helping people and feel you could join our friendly group of volunteers around the first weekend of October then we would love to hear from you.

Our audience comes from a wide area, specifically to see world class performers, and we want them to have the best experience possible of the Festival. Roles vary from checking tickets, handing out programmes, helping with interval refreshments and setting up the concerts and you will benefit from free access to each concert you attend as a volunteer.

Our volunteers are essential to the success of the festival!

If you are interested in volunteering, please email the Festival Administrator, Orsi Torjak, at [admin@tetburymusicfestival.org](mailto:admin@tetburymusicfestival.org)

We are also **looking for a work placement student** to assist with all kinds of administrative and practical aspects of the festival. They will gain really valuable experience in arts management. If you know a young person on a gap year or a fresh graduate, or indeed anyone of any age who would be interested, please refer them to us!

Again they should email the Festival Administrator, Orsi Torjak, at [admin@tetburymusicfestival.org](mailto:admin@tetburymusicfestival.org)

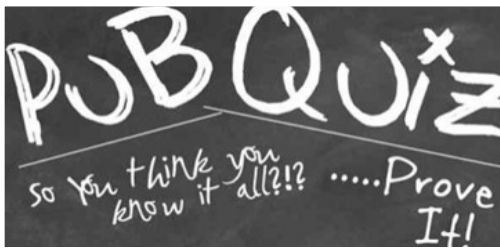
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# Avening Parish Council



As mentioned in the Avening Parish Council Chairman's report, there was no meeting last month and therefore

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 21st September in the Memorial Hall

*Agendas and minutes can be viewed at [www.avening-pc.gov.uk](http://www.avening-pc.gov.uk). The Parish Clerk can be contacted via email: [parishclerk@avening-pc.gov.uk](mailto:parishclerk@avening-pc.gov.uk)*

## 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.

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# Puzzle Answers

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

H	E	R	O	I	S	M		A	F	T	E	R		
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B	L	I	S	S		D	O	U	B	T	E	D		
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T	A	B	L	E	T	S		I	D	E	A	L		
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D	R	E	S	S				R	E	C	Y	C	L	E

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# Dates For Your Diary

Date	Event	Location	Time
Tuesday 6th September	Start of Term at Avening Primary School		
Tuesday 6th September	Tea and Tissues	Avening Church	8.40— 10.30 am
Wednesday 7th September	Start of Term at Avening Playgroup		
Saturday 10th / Sunday 11th September	Avening Art Exhibition, Dog show and Fete	Around and in Avening Church	2.00 pm
Wednesday 21st September	Avening Parish Council Meeting	Avening Memorial Hall	7.30 pm
Tuesday 27th September	Macmillan Coffee Morning	Community Café	9.00— 11.30 am
Wednesday 28th September	Avening Cinema Club (Downton Abbey)	Avening Memorial Hall	7.00 for 7.30 pm



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