



# The Villager

A Magazine for Avening,  
Cherington and Nags Head

**March 2021**

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



## OPEN

Mon - Thur: 11am - 11pm  
 Fri - Sat: 11am - 11.30pm  
 Sunday: 12pm - 11pm

## LUNCH

Mon - Sat: 12pm - 2.30pm  
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# March 2021

What a crazy time we are living in at the moment, not helped recently by the miserably cold, icy weather, but it looks as if we might be in for something a bit more encouraging from now on. As usual the snowdrops have determinedly put in an appearance, meaning that there is something pretty to look at, pick and enjoy indoors.

We have, no doubt, all been taking health-giving walks, as we have been encouraged to do, during Lockdown, but now perhaps we shall really begin to enjoy those walks. What could be better then, than to read Roger Lindley's prize winning 'Can't Get Out?' item, extolling the virtues of walking around our villages and to remember what a lot there is to see just outside our front doors. Equally have a wander round Avening looking at all the old pubs, so well researched and described by Beverly Rymer in this issue. As a final thought, on this topic, enjoy the item on stone stiles, which may provide even more reason for getting out and about; perhaps discovering yet more of them locally, photographing and then submitting them to be included in the register dedicated to these ancient features of our countryside.

Don't forget, if you enjoy reading the print edition of The Villager but would love to see all the photographs in glorious technicolour, cost unfortunately preventing us from printing in that way, just pop along to the parish council website ([www.avening-pc.gov.uk](http://www.avening-pc.gov.uk)). All recent magazines are available there and can be viewed and downloaded in full colour!

*The Villager Editors*

## The Villager Magazine

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

**Advertising** [editors@villagemag.online](mailto:editors@villagemag.online) Gwyneth Simpson 01453 836556

**Deliveries** Cas Boddam-Whetham 01453 834834

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## Photographs in The Villager Magazine

Many thanks to **Kieran Archer** for this view of the stream flowing out of Cherington Lake

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)

# Contacts for the Villages

|                                      |  |                              |
|--------------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Avening and Cherington Priest        | Revd. Gerald South                     | 01453 883456                 |
| Avening & Cherington Churches Reader | Derrick Pierce                         | 01453 835090                 |
| Avening & Cherington Cricket Club    | Derrick Ind                            | 01453 835752                 |
| 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<br>Elizabeth Fuller | 01453 833016<br>01453 835067 |
| Avening Church Flower Team           | Doreen Pierce                          | 01453 835090                 |
| Avening Church Organist              | Colin Chambers                         | 01666 880026                 |
| Avening Church PCC Treasurer         | Nicholas Winkfield                     | 07885 139275                 |
| Avening Cinema Club                  | Katy Upton                             | 07806 614753                 |
| Avening Community Orchard            | Phoebe Carter                          | pklc1@hotmail.com            |
| Avening History Project              | Jean Chatelain                         | 01453 834713                 |
| 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 Youth Club                          | Revd. Gerald South<br>The Door       | 01453 883456<br>01453 756745                 |
| Cherington Village Hall                     | Camilla Trotter                      | 07545 054160                                 |
| Cherington Parish Council Clerk             | Richard Smith                        | Cheringtonparishcouncil<br>@yahoo.co.uk      |
| Cherington Church<br>Churchwardens          | John Bate-Williams<br>Helen di Mauro | 01666 503544<br>07796 937268                 |
| Cherington Church Flower Team               | Elizabeth Workman                    | 01285 841294                                 |
| Cherington Church Organist                  | Elizabeth Workman                    | 01285 841294                                 |
| Cherington Church PCC<br>Secretary          | Elizabeth Workman                    | 01285 841294                                 |
| Cherington Church PCC<br>Treasurer          | Paul Cable                           | cabes50@yahoo.co.uk                          |
| Community Café                              | Jennie South                         | 01453 883456                                 |
| Community Café Crop Swap                    | Chandy Rodgers                       | Chandra.rodgers65@<br>gmail.com 07734 971211 |
| Cotswold District Councillor                | Richard Morgan                       |  |
| Friends of Avening School                   | Nicky Dill                           | 01453 833191                                 |
| Over 60s Lunch Club                         | Christine Howell                     | 01453 833246                                 |
| South Cotswold Community<br>Wellbeing Agent |                                      | 01452 528491                                 |
| Stroud Hospital                             | Reception                            | 0300 421 8080                                |
| Tetbury Hospital                            |                                      | 01666 502336                                 |
| Women's Institute                           | Liz Knowles                          | 01453 833803                                 |

### **VILLAGE & AREA WEB SITES**

**Avening Parish Council: [www.avening-pc.gov.uk](http://www.avening-pc.gov.uk)**

**Avening Church: [www.aveningchurch.info](http://www.aveningchurch.info)**

**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



As I reported last month, we now have the solid core of a management committee for the Memorial Hall and will be calling an AGM on 11<sup>th</sup> March to install the committee and conduct several rather dull but necessary legal procedures. However, the main part of the meeting will be to look towards the (hopefully near) future when we can once again open up the hall to other users – we therefore invite representatives from our user groups, and any individuals who have an interest in the hall to join the Zoom meeting – please contact the clerk if you are able to join us, and she will provide the link.

On a slightly less positive note, I received a disappointing response from the property and lease manager at GCC following their surveyor's report conducted in January – she has not recognised any of our concerns over the property, the lease, or financial arrangements. I will be responding robustly to ensure we have arrangements in place to protect the long-term viability of the hall and all its users.

We are setting up a sub-committee to review the facilities and needs of the playing field. We have the zip-wire almost over the line, and we have received some generous donations to make other improvements. The committee members will be engaging with parents and users to make sure we invest in the right areas.

Our request to GCC for a batch of mixed native saplings for the village was successful and we'll be planting them during March.

The Environment Agency and CDC planners are still dragging their heels over their actions regarding the new dam and earthworks at Aston Farm, so I still can't provide an update. However, the overspill on the dam is eroding rapidly which is a cause for concern.

At the PC meeting we discussed the option of imposing a blanket 20mph speed limit in the village – there was no appetite to do so due to the significant cost, and inability to effectively enforce it – those drivers who do not adhere to the current limits are unlikely to do so for a reduced limit. I will however meet with our Highways officer in the coming weeks to review other options that might be more appropriate. We may also take part in a volunteer speed trap later in the year.

The PC are also investigating if we can obtain larger gritters that can be pulled on the back of vehicles for volunteers to treat our local roads – the current arrangement with grit bins is not ideal as they don't get refilled once the grit is used.

***Tony Slater – email: [chair@avening-pc.gov.uk](mailto:chair@avening-pc.gov.uk): Web: [www.avening-pc.gov.uk](http://www.avening-pc.gov.uk)  
For Covid assistance contact [Covid19@avening-pc.gov.uk](mailto:Covid19@avening-pc.gov.uk) or call 07415 039234***

# Regular Activities in the Villages

Items struck through are temporarily suspended.

| Event                         | Day                        | Time                         | Where                 | Contact                        |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| <del>Line Dancing</del>       | Monday                     | <del>7.30-<br/>9.30pm</del>  | Social Club           | Social Club<br>01453 833760    |
| Community Café                | Tuesday                    | 9.00-<br>11.30am             | Social Club           | Jenny South<br>01453 883456    |
| <del>Churchyard tidy up</del> | Tuesday                    | <del>6.00-<br/>7.00pm</del>  | Holy Cross churchyard | Rev. Gerald<br>01453 883456    |
| Cherington PC                 | Tuesday bi-monthly         | 6.00pm                       | Zoom                  | Richard Smith                  |
| Bell Ringing                  | Tuesday                    | 7.30-<br>9.00pm              | Church Bell Tower     | Andrew<br>01453 835783         |
| <del>Line Dancing</del>       | Tuesday                    | <del>8.00-<br/>10.00pm</del> | Social Club           | Social Club<br>01453 833760    |
| Avening Youth Club            | Every Tuesday in term time | 6.00-<br>7.30pm              | Avening church        | Rev. Gerald<br>01453 883456    |
| Over 60s Lunch Club           | 1st Wednesday each month   | 12.30pm                      | Social Club           | Christine<br>01453 833246      |
| Avening Cinema Club           | 1st Thursday each month    | 7.30pm                       | Memorial Hall         | Katy<br>07806 614753           |
| Avening W.I.                  | 2nd Thursday each month    | 7.30pm                       | Memorial Hall         | Liz<br>01453 833803            |
| Avening PC                    | 3rd Thursday each month    | 7.30pm                       | Zoom                  | Caroline<br>01285 380041       |
| Summer Skittles               | Friday                     | 8.00pm                       | Social club           | Derrick Ind<br>01453 835752    |
| Charity Quiz                  | 1st Saturday each month    | 8.00pm                       | The Bell              |                                |
| Avening Angels Choir          | Sunday                     | 4.30pm                       | Avening Church        | Derrick Pierce<br>01453 835090 |

# Avening and Cherington Churches



## Sunday Services

At the time of writing services in church are suspended as a precaution against the spread of infection: online services continue and you can find them each Sunday (and the remainder of the week) at:

Avening: [www.achurchnearyou.com/church/14317/](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/14317/)

Cherington: [www.achurchnearyou.com/church/14319/](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/14319/)

It is much to be hoped that we will be back in church before long and, if this is during March, these are the planned services:

|                      |          |                     |                   |
|----------------------|----------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 7 <sup>th</sup> Mar  | 10.00 am | Eucharist Service   | Avening Church    |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> Mar | 9.30 am  | Mothering Sunday    | Cherington Church |
|                      | 11.00 am | Mothering Sunday    | Avening Church    |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> Mar | 10.00 am | Eucharist Service   | Avening Church    |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> Mar | 10.00 am | Palm Sunday Service | Cherington Church |

For the current situation at any time please check on the websites above or contact me. When it is possible to decide the arrangements for Holy Week and Easter these will be on these sites.

## Our Church Buildings

We have said before and it is worth repeating that ‘the church’ does not necessarily refer to a building but rather a community of people who seek to follow the way of Christ. The people of both Avening and Cherington churches have continued to be ‘the church’ throughout the last difficult year through their worship (albeit often at home and sometimes online), and their supporting relationships with other villagers. However the church buildings are very significant and how fortunate we are to have two such magnificent ones even if we are not worshipping in them at the moment.

They remain open at particular times (see websites above for details) and you are very welcome to visit them for some quiet time – please just keep to the infection precautions which are explained there.

One aspect of our buildings is the many ways in which they have been modified over the centuries in order to meet the needs of their times. We were reminded of that recently when a film company were considering the use of Avening church as a set for a Tudor period drama. They had found that Avening was the only church of the 60 they had investigated to be free of Victorian pews in the nave. When they visited they noticed many of the features of the church that have been introduced since Tudor



times, ones they would need to disguise if they choose to go ahead with this venue for their filming: we do not yet know whether they will. (Breaking news — see page 38!)

In recent months the church council has been discussing the use of the chancel area of Avening church – that is the part between the tower and the main altar. There are some choir pews there which are very rarely in use and there are members of the congregation who feel the space could be used more creatively for worship, as well as revealing more of the original walls and floor, and returning the area closer to its original layout. The PCC is hoping to move these pews, temporarily at least, to other areas of the church in order to explore this possibility. We will keep you informed of any further thoughts about this and comments about it will be welcomed.

### **Now we are in Lent ...**

... and it can be a time of quiet reflection about ourselves, the people and world around us, our relationships with each other and with the God who is both within us and beyond us.

Here is a blessing from Rebeka Maples of the Iona Community:

Love what love can do.  
Be all that you can be.  
God is calling you.  
This is not the past.  
Do not live there.  
Let the voices go.  
Do not cling to what is gone.  
This is not the future.  
You are not there yet.  
Let the worries be.  
Do not live where you are not.  
This is here and now.  
This is all you have.  
Do not miss where you are.  
For it will not stay for past or future to replay.  
Live the life that you are in.  
You cannot live where you have been.

You cannot be where you are not.  
Be in the time you are in.  
Love what you can do.  
Be all that you can be.  
No one can live for you.  
Or be what you can be.  
Live and love what love can do.  
The time is now.  
The place is here.  
Love and live what you can do.  
God is calling you.  
Go now into the desert places  
where God calls you to go, and be what  
God calls you to be.  
And may the blessing of Almighty God,  
Creator, Son and Holy Spirit, come upon  
us and remain with us forever. Amen

***Gerald South, Parish Priest for Avening and Cherington***  
***[gp.south@btopenworld.com](mailto:gp.south@btopenworld.com) 01453 883456***

# Puzzle Corner

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

## 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 44*

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### Across

- 1. Peril (8)
- 5. Rim (4)
- 9. Similar (5)
- 10. Extinct elephant (7)
- 11. Aromatic seasoning (7)
- 12. Wild feline (5)
- 13. Gaped (6)
- 15. Winner (6)
- 19. Go in (5)
- 21. Farmer's calendar (7)
- 23. Italian red wine (7)
- 24. Inexperienced (5)
- 25. Luxuriant (4)
- 26. Fierce (8)

|    |  |    |  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |    |
|----|--|----|--|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|--|----|
| 1  |  | 2  |  | 3  |    | 4  |    |    | 5  | 6  |  | 7  |
|    |  |    |  |    |    |    | 8  |    |    |    |  |    |
| 9  |  |    |  |    |    | 10 |    |    |    |    |  |    |
|    |  |    |  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |    |
| 11 |  |    |  |    |    |    |    |    | 12 |    |  |    |
|    |  |    |  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |    |
| 13 |  | 14 |  |    |    |    | 15 | 16 |    |    |  | 17 |
|    |  |    |  |    |    | 18 |    |    |    |    |  |    |
| 19 |  |    |  | 20 |    | 21 |    |    |    | 22 |  |    |
|    |  |    |  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |    |
| 23 |  |    |  |    |    |    |    | 24 |    |    |  |    |
|    |  |    |  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |    |
| 25 |  |    |  |    | 26 |    |    |    |    |    |  |    |

www.puzzlechoice.com

### Down

- |                                 |                              |                    |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Envious (7)                  | 6. Shortage of rainfall (7)  | 17. Wealthiest (7) |
| 2. Mediterranean fruit tree (5) | 7. Used as an anesthetic (5) | 18. Of the sea (6) |
| 3. Norm (7)                     | 8. Leave out (4)             | 19. Surpass (5)    |
| 4. Type of plum (6)             | 14. Achieves (7)             | 20. Rip (4)        |
|                                 | 16. Vast (7)                 | 22. Dissonance (5) |

## Spring Dawn

As I climb the misty hill  
The church clock's striking seven,  
As all the earth lies hushed and still,  
And God is in his heaven.  
Now birdsong fills the silence  
Beneath an opal sky,  
And fluttering wings, from tree to tree,  
Make patterns as they fly.  
Shy violets star the wayside banks,  
Where primroses unfurl,  
While on the trees and hedgerows  
Pale , tender leaves uncurl.  
Mist rises from the valley  
Across the sleeping world  
As a rosy sun arises  
To kiss the earth with gold.  
God's seasons , never changing,  
As sunshine follows rain,  
So dark Winter lies behind us  
And Spring awakes again ...



*Gilian Bulmer Davison*

## The Great Exhibition

### This year's title: 'LOCKDOWN'

This is to remind you of the 'Great Exhibition' of Artwork, Projects and Accomplishments that have been achieved during 'Lockdown'.

The three day Exhibition will be held in Avening Church when people once again are free to gather together and enjoy the occasion, chat with their friends and look at the displays.

We do not know precisely when it will be held - but please don't forget. Keep Creating!

Dates: to be announced.

For more information contact George Buchanan (01453 833016) or email: [buchanan.pg@gmail.com](mailto:buchanan.pg@gmail.com)



## Anthea Best

28<sup>th</sup> September 1945 - 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021



*The editors are grateful to Anthea's husband, Peter, who sent us a copy of the eulogy, written by her cousin Chris Whatley, which was read at the ceremony to celebrate her life on Friday 5th February. Below are excerpts from that eulogy. Peter told us that she was very happy in Avening and fell for the area once she and Peter had moved to the Old Rectory in 2004. She felt 'at home' here. We offer Peter and the family our heartfelt condolences.*

Anthea was no ordinary woman. Nor did she live an ordinary life. For the best part of sixty years her homes were in the heart of England. It's where she was born. It's where she settled in her late teens, it's

where she married, had children, and enjoyed her grandchildren.

So it's difficult sometimes to square this with her formative years. She was only four when her parents took her five hundred miles north from their small tumbledown farm near Birmingham to live on a tiny, deserted island off the Island of Skye - Pabay. Gaelic was then widely spoken on Skye, and folks from England weren't always welcomed by the indigenous population. But as Anthea herself said later on, ironically, having an English accent whilst at school on Skye was a blessing. It was pupils who dared to speak their native Gaelic in the schoolroom who were thrashed by the teachers, not a child like her, who spoke the Queen's English.

It's her experiences of living on Pabay, with her very special parents, that are the keys to understanding Anthea and the woman she became. Like the rest of her family, Anthea was a 'can do' kind of person, resourceful and positive. Indeed, in so many respects she was her parents' daughter, and took from them traits that she then developed in her own way. One of these was a certain fearlessness – and an admirable capacity to conquer her anxieties. One early instance of this she remembered vividly. The occasion was the time when, barely into her teens, she determined to row alone in a small dinghy across the two mile stretch of sea between Pabay and the nearest village of Broadford on mainland Skye. Her grandmother disapproved and her father watched nervously as she set off. Anthea herself began to feel nervous once she had rowed some way from shore and thought to turn back. But she kept going and was glad she'd done so. A few years later she went even further, and left Pabay to embark on a new life down south, here in England, a brave move for a young woman, still a girl in her teens.

It was from her mother that she inherited her craft skills, an ability to turn into useful and often beautiful objects discarded odds and ends and pieces of furniture.

Some of Anthea's own characteristics shone through early on. On Pabay, dressing well was hardly a priority. Dressing appropriately was more the thing. She was never showy, but she was always smart. And the roots of this can be traced back to her years at school.

On Mondays she and her siblings would be taken by small boat across the sea to the school in Broadford. The track from the house to the jetty on Pabay was often muddy. The jetty itself was rough and strewn with seaweed. Scrambling onto the boat could be tricky. Crossing the sea when the wind was blowing meant that the children would get soaked in the spray. Yet Anthea's concern was the state of her shoes. Would they be shiny and smart by the time she got to school? Would they meet with the approval of her teacher?

As she grew older she developed into an attractive young woman. Word of this spread amongst the bachelor population on and around the larger island of Skye, despite the fact that she lived on an isolated island at a time when mobile phones and social media had not even been imagined. How did this happen? Maybe it was the seals. An abiding memory of Anthea, recorded in a family photograph album, is of her sitting high and gracefully on the rocks that lined the shore of the house on Pabay playing a zither – that is a kind of horizontal harp – with the intention of, and succeeding in, attracting seals, which gathered, their heads raised and looking captivated, in the still sea water nearby.

But what was one of Anthea's most striking characteristics was her enthusiasm, her energy, her willingness to try new and difficult things, her love of fresh pursuits.

There isn't time here to list in full the numerous projects she embarked upon, or the skills she sought to master. These included: dowsing, restoration of antique furniture, photography. Before that she'd learned the art of making small delicate pictures using a variety of media. Many years afterwards she was able to turn her hand to larger-scale paintings and immersed herself in family history, travelling to many of the places her forebears had lived and worked.

But perhaps her most ambitious feat was in garden design. The proof of this is in the remarkable garden she created in the grounds of her and Peter's house in Avening. Having read about and visited some of the finest gardens in England and as far away as Italy, she created a garden at the Old Rectory which she was able to open to visitors. As always, she relied heavily upon the loyal support given her by Peter.

Finally, of course much more recently there was golf – which in a very short time Anthea not only got the hang of but also managed to win for herself a cup or two.

But for those who had known her all their lives none of these accomplishments came as a surprise. Away back in the beginning, on Pabay in the early 1960s, she astonished her father and the men who'd done the job for years by how readily she picked up the job of sheep shearing.

So, Anthea's was a life packed to the brim with living; never a minute was wasted. Seize the moment was an expression she used on many an occasion. What a great way to live life.



# Avening Community Café



*Muddie Buddies*

When is a café not a café? The answer might be – when there is no coffee, no cake and nowhere to gather. Happily, this is not the case for Avening Community Café! On and off, for the past year, all three of these have been unavailable at some time but thanks to determination, ingenuity, imagination, and by focussing on ‘the community’ we have managed to keep the café on people’s radar and to bring a smile and a bit of cheer to many of you. The Noah’s Ark two by two walking also offered a bit of company and chat.

but the extended lockdown means there is still a gap to bridge – but let’s hope it won’t be needed for much longer – great read though it is!

One of the highlights last month was the Valentines cake boxes. Huge thanks to Clare Bebbington who, together with star bakers, Sandra Hetterley, Amanda Sanders and Michele Wheatley, masterminded and took orders for almost 50 delicious boxes of cake ‘treats’ which cheered people up on what turned out to be a very dank, grey day. Thanks to everyone’s generosity over £100 was donated to the café’s charities.

Still on a baking theme, a team of café bakers, organised by

*High Street Plant Swap*



Mandy Slater, have been making occasional surprise deliveries of cakes for the staff at Avening School to cheer them on their way and let them know how much we appreciate all they do.

Plans for March have to be fluid but the regulars will continue: the Roadside and Jigsaw Libraries, and the two by two walks, which now include the Avening Farms and Barns walk thanks to combined input from Gilian Bulmer-Davison and Beverley Rymer. Then as soon as weather allows, Elizabeth Buchanan, with help from Gill Adams, will be ready to re-open the café plant swap at 15 and 18 High Street which proved



*‘Café Valentine’s Day cake bake - Lille and Jake - two very happy customers’.*



*Litter pickers*

to be such a hit last year. Share your spare seed, divided perennials, and if you see something you fancy help yourself and perhaps make a donation to the café charities. Peter Barton will be organising the first café litter pick of the year – one Tuesday this month - watch out for date and further details. Thanks to those of you have been doing a bit of 'Wombling' to help keep the village tidy meanwhile.

Finally, the café will be encouraging everyone to join in with Avening Spring Fling on 13<sup>th</sup> /14<sup>th</sup> March – giving spring a helping hand with blossom and bunting – details below.

*Jennie South*



## **Avening Spring Fling**

**The weekend of Mothering Sunday March 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>**

You are invited to put up some bunting, make a garland, a posy, decorate a tree – do something that can be seen from the road in your garden, on your front door or in your window - a bit of added interest and spring cheerfulness for us all when taking the air as we celebrate and thank our mothers and welcome the official first day of Spring on 20<sup>th</sup> March.



This is the Church of England's booklet of readings and reflections for the days of Lent.

If you would like a copy (£2) please contact Gerald on 01453 883456.

Alternatively use online by following the leads at:

[www.churchofengland.org](http://www.churchofengland.org)

**Gerald South, Parish Priest for Avening and Cherington**  
**gp.south@btopenworld.com 01453 883456**

## Avening Inns and Pubs

It is rumoured that there were a good many inns and pubs in Avening in the past and I have been researching what the records can tell us. Street names, order of recording and spellings vary significantly in census records from 1841-1911 and it's sometimes impossible to locate a building. At any one time it seems there were really no more than about 8 pubs or beer retailers in business, including at Nag's Head and The Weighbridge, and for many it was a supplementary trade. Portfolio careers are not a 21st century invention!

Please remember that some of these buildings are now private houses and respect the peace and privacy of residents if you choose to walk round to view them.



Starting at the bottom of the High Street there was The Bell Inn, which appears in records from at least 1841 and is still trading. In 1909 this was owned by Stroud Brewery Co Ltd. Note

the West Country Ales 'Best In The West' plaque by the door (Stroud Brewery Co Ltd merged with Cheltenham Brewery in 1858 to form West Country Breweries). In recent years this was a restaurant for a time.

In New Inn Lane there was The New Inn. The building dates to the 17th Century (see the date on the gable end). A Friendly Society met here in 1828. It may not always have been an inn but was listed as such from 1861 to 1956. In 1909 it was owned by Cheltenham Original Brewery Co Ltd.

In Point Road you will find The Butchers Arms, a pub from at least 1881-1914. Note the painted sign on the front of the house and the plaque to a



WW1 soldier, Rowland Fowles, born

here in 1889, who died in June 1918 whilst serving as a private soldier in the Royal Army Medical Corps. If you want to find out more about him and his family go to 29 on the Avening Parish Council History pages of WWI Heroes.

At the sharp bend in the High St and next to 1 High St, stood The Lamb Inn which was pulled down in the 1860s. The Sawyers Arms was built on the site of The Lamb Inn and traded at least between 1871-1901. It later became the Church Institute (by 1911) and was in turn demolished in the 1950s for road widening.





Across the road, of course, is the Queen Matilda, for many decades known as The Golden Cross or Cross Inn. It was trading by 1841 and in 1909 it was owned by the Stroud Brewery Co Ltd. Note the West Country Ales "Best In The West" plaque by the door. Here there is another plaque to a WW1 soldier; Ralph John Dee who died, aged 19, in December 1915 at Bethune, Northern France, whilst serving as a sapper in the 70th Field Company Royal Engineers. On the side of the building, down Hampton Hill, you will see the old name of the pub painted on the wall.

In Old Hill, near the junction with Lawrence Rd, there was The Rising Sun, which was certainly a pub from 1871-1911. In 1909 this was owned by Stroud Brewery Co. Here there is a plaque to commemorate William C Richings, the son of the publican, who fell in WWI.



There are also references to other inns and beer retailers in census returns: The Horse and Groom (Hampton Hill, 1856-1861), The Carpenters Arms (Tetbury Hill in 1850s), the Farriers Arms (1856-1863) and another 3 inns in Bell St, High St and Barn Row in 1851-1871 that are recorded without names.

Pig's Face Day: It was traditional in Avening, at least from the start of the 20th century, for all the public houses (the Cross, the Bell, the New Inn, the Rising Sun and the Nag's Head) to provide free sandwiches on Pig's Face Day, the Sunday after 14th September. People came from around the area to enjoy free food and the music provided by Avening Silver Band.

Further afield, The Nag's Head Inn in Nag's Head is known to have been a pub by 1824 and remained so until at least the 1950s. In October 1913 it was sold to the Stroud Brewery Co. The building is Grade II Listed, late 17th/early 18th Century. At the far end of Star Lane, Star Farm was once The Star and Garter Inn but by 1856 it is listed as only a farm, held rather appropriately by a Thomas Hen. Then there is The Weighbridge at Iron Mills on the Nailsworth Road; it fell into the ancient Avening parish which once even included Forest Green and Windsor Edge, now parts of Nailsworth. It was certainly a pub by 1851 and again is still trading.

*Beverley Rymer*

# Farm Life



The recent cold and wet weather has again drawn us to find jobs inside, particularly the servicing of equipment that will be needed in the spring and summer months. So far we have been fortunate with this winter's weather in that it has been fairly mild, although wet. The few weeks in February where we saw temperatures drop below freezing and stay there for a number of days caused problems with water troughs and resulted in us having to carry water on the tractor to the fields from the one tap we could get to run. During that cold spell it's always interesting to see how much more feed all the cattle eat in an effort to stay warm. As I explained before, our cattle are of native breed which means that they are adapted to withstand the cold weather, all of them having thick winter hair to deal with it. We always say that cattle don't seem to mind the cold if it is dry, however, they seem unimpressed if the weather is cold and wet. In this case hedges and walls become extremely important to provide them with a shelter.

I recently wrote about how we manage our hedges on the farm, being wildlife corridors, a feed source and shelter for our cattle.

Other than hedges, the farm is fortunate to have number of very old dry stone walls which help build up the character of the surrounding area. These also provide a method of travel between habitats for small mammals and insects in addition to providing the out wintered cattle shelter from the elements. The freeze-thaw action that occurs within



the wall always causes some to collapse every year which is also not helped by the tree roots and inquisitive cattle trying to eat the ivy on the other side!

Fortunately, my dad is a very good dry stone waller, who was taught from a very young age by my grandfather and always gets the job of going around the farm repairing any walls as they come down. There are a few sayings that come with dry stone walling. One of them goes "a dry stone waller should only pick up a stone from a pile once, as they will know exactly where it will fit into the wall".

Another saying is "the gaps between the stones should be big enough for a mouse but not the cat to follow!" This is a skill that I have been lucky enough to watch both my grandfather and father practice over the years and although it's not my favorite job,

there is always the satisfaction that the wall you build should be there for over a hundred years, (Hopefully!).

A dry stone wall is built without using any form of concrete and consists of 'face' stones and middle or 'fill stones'. The face stones are most ideal when they have a straight front edge and are the stones you can see when the wall is built. These should be slightly angled to the outside of the wall on each layer to ensure the rain runs out. The 'fill' stones are the smaller or more awkward stones that help to tie the two face stones on either side together, although nobody sees these, they are as important as the face stones.



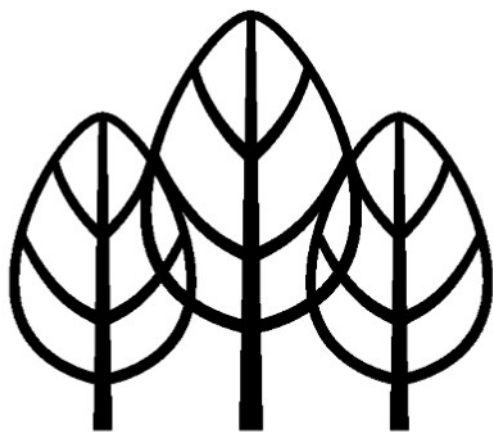
Although to some people a dry stone wall may be for only decorative or practical purposes, they do contribute to building a diverse ecosystem.

From a farming perspective they provide a good stock proof barrier and shelter for the animals, but in the wildlife world they provide something much more important. For wildlife they provide corridors in which species can travel around the landscape between habitats and food sources, they also provide a microclimate, particularly on the south facing side where they are favoured by basking insects and reptiles. It's not only insects and mammals that rely on walls as a habitat, lichen and moss do too.

Ensuring that dry stone walls are kept in good condition on the farm is an important task and is an example of how we are trying to link farming with the environment by practices that not only benefit the farmer but the environment too.

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***Sam Powell***



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## Avening W.I.



Back in October each of our members received a goody bag to mark our 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. One of the items inside was a hyacinth bulb and compost. Our hope was that we would be able to get together in February and make a rainbow display of hyacinths. This was not to be, but members grew some beautiful, scented flowers and were able to send photos to our secretary Soo. She then arranged them into an attractive display for our February newsletter.

Another item in our newsletter was sent in by one of our members, Penny Fernando, who is the footpath officer for Stroud Rambling Club. She told us about the Stone Stiles Project being carried out by the Gloucestershire Council for the Preservation of Rural England. There are many historic stone stiles in

Gloucestershire of many different types and this project aims to record and protect them. Anyone interested in taking part can find more information at <https://www.cpreglos.org.uk/creating-a-record-of-gloucestershire-stone-stiles/> (See the item on page 36)

There is a form which can be printed or completed on line with the details required and they would like a photograph plus the height and width of the stile recorded. There are many stone stiles to discover in and around Avening and it would be great to include them on the survey. If you are out and about getting some exercise this might provide some extra interest on your walk and the CPRE is happy to receive more than one submission for each stile. The photo shows the unusual stone stile in Nags Head Lane.

We are planning to hold our March meeting on Zoom and our speaker will be Mandy Bradshaw, The Chatty Gardener, with an illustrated talk entitled 'Finding the Angle at Chelsea'. If anyone is interested to join us please contact Soo Rolfe at [aveningwi@gmail.com](mailto:aveningwi@gmail.com)

With the vaccination programme going so well we are hopeful of having some get-togethers later in the year, once it is safe to do so.



*Helen Haiselden*

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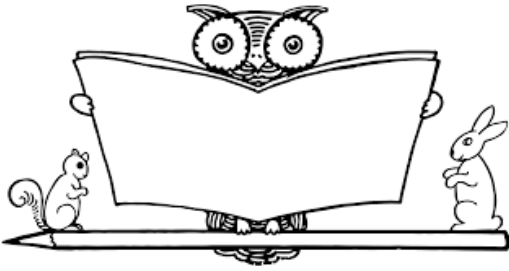
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## Avening Church of England Education Fund (ACEEF)



The trustees of ACEEF have limited funds available to assist Avening residents under 25 with their education. These grants are intended to help ensure that young people in the village are not deprived of the opportunity to receive good education suiting their

aptitudes and abilities.

Although we normally advertise the availability of our grants during the summer, grants are available at any time during the year, and we recognise that young people and their families may need extra support with their education during these challenging times.

If you, or your children, are in need of such support, please request an application form by phoning Gerald South on 01453 883456 or emailing [gp.south@btopenworld.com](mailto:gp.south@btopenworld.com).



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**Many thanks to Amanda Fleming for this lovely wintery photo taken at the top of Steps Lane**



## Can't Get Out?

### Amble Around Avening with Roger Lindley

Would you like to join me on my favourite walk? Well, it's not just one walk, there are so many variations en route that you can adjust it according to the time of year, the weather, and how fit you are feeling. So let's start off at the Bell Inn, and see how far we can manage in a couple of hours, allowing for several stops to take in some of the views. You'll need boots or wellies, as there are bound to be one or two muddy bits where we join bridleways.



Let's amble down past the Memorial Hall and school, and head up Woodstock lane. Look in that window, there's a photo of Bob Hill drawing water from this pump in pre-war days; it's so good that we retain these reminders of what life was like here a hundred years ago. We'll carry on up the hill, a bit steep, keeping to the right, past the Savage's site... looks like they won't be running out of wood for a while yet. Let's get our breath back after that climb and look out at this terrific view across the fields to Gatcombe House; we're so fortunate that Princess Anne allows us access through her estate, it makes for a very pleasant walk to Minchinhampton, or to cut across the golf course to Nag's Head.

We've arrived at Longman's Farm, now incorporating a smart equestrian centre. And just look at that superb barn. I was going to take us up the path opposite the stables back towards Avening via West End, but it would be a crime to miss out on Hazel wood, so let's carry straight on. But first, take in the view towards Minchinhampton, you can see the church clearly from here.

The wood is a carpet of bluebells and wild garlic in the spring. Let's sit quietly on this large stone and listen to the birdsong: there are blackbirds, robins, tits, tree creepers and woodpeckers here for starters. When we reach the end of the wood, we'll turn left after the gate to follow the bridle path towards Nailsworth for about 300 yards, and then head left again at the junction. The right track there takes you down to the Weighbridge Inn.

After a few hundred yards we've now reached a track wide enough for vehicles, but as it gets very muddy we'll cross over and take the parallel path through the ancient woodland, heading back towards Avening. We'll come out of the wood and follow the road down to Brandhouse Farm, with its imposing new house there and another enormous barn. There are goats housed in the old stables, with sheep in the field; in Autumn there are many







pheasants about... but not for long. There's usually a buzzard or two around here as well.

It's downhill all the way now. After passing Vale Farm we head home down the lane through West End, always a pleasant experience, especially when the blackberries are out. Let's take the footpath just beyond the stables and climb over the two stiles to reach the church. I do find this churchyard fascinating, as of course it reveals so much of Avening's history. I've sat on the bench in Cherington's churchyard too, next to Brian Trubshaw's grave, recalling those views of the sleek silver Concorde announcing its evening departure to the States with a sonic boom over Gloucestershire. I'm always drawn to military headstones, and here we have Corporal and Private Ayres, presumably two brothers, both killed in the First World War. John Rowland was a carpenter who lived in our house in the High Street; he died in 1889. His grandson was a second lieutenant who was killed in 1918.

As our wellies are so muddy, let's go and stomp in the stream by the school and clean them off. Whenever I pass the stream, I can't help it, I check to see whether there's enough water flowing to enable Ron Major to launch the ducks at the Church fête. I'm sure that the fête's universal appeal is because it is timeless: a brass band, traditional games and stalls, great fun and it probably hasn't changed since the 1950's. Just like this walk, it all adds to that wonderful feeling of well-being that you derive from living in Avening.



Well here we are back at the Bell Inn....what's that you say, you fancy a sit down here? Fair enough, you've deserved it!

*Roger was the winner of the Parish Council Walks Competition with this entry. Congratulations, Roger!*



# LIVIA

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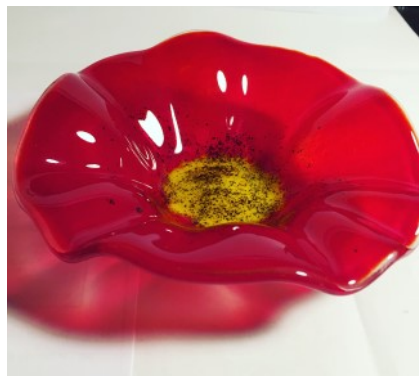
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**Made in Avening!**



# Made in Avening

In houses and cottages around our village, makers, designers and creators quietly beaver away making beautiful products all on our doorstep. And we are spoiled for choice – the range of products, gifts and makes is remarkable:

*Lino-cut cards and prints; jewellery; home-spun and dyed wool and handwoven scarves and bags; knitted blankets and baby hats; glass dishes and suncatchers; fabric bunnies and bunting; felt horses; cushions and gift bags; headbands, fascinators, and shrugs; locally designed T-shirts and mugs; hand-painted cards and original paintings of local places; wooden games and decorative pieces, birdboxes and insect houses; honey; quail scotch eggs and Old Spot sausages... the list keeps growing!*



And two incredible women both came up with the same idea – there should be a way for local people to discover these makers, and a way for the makers to showcase and sell their work. First there was ‘**Artisan Avening**’ Facebook Page, created by Estelle St John-Smith, promoting not just local makers but small village businesses of all kinds.

Then ‘**Made in Avening**’ was born – the brainchild of Elizabeth Oliver, who could not believe the wealth of talent harboured in our village and wanted to get all the makers together so they could show their craft. This has resulted in a virtual shop window through their Instagram page where new products and news is shared by the makers, but also a pop-up shop window, kindly ‘donated’ by Roger and Frances Lindley at 48 High Street. The first one was at Christmas, and there is another one planned during Easter – so keep your eyes peeled for some gorgeous displays and goodies for sale!

So if you are looking for a bespoke gift or need a card at short notice, or simply want the food miles to be in single figures, think about shopping really local – try our village makers first.

Please do visit the Made in Avening Instagram account and the Artisan Avening Facebook page to view some of the delightful items on offer. If you are interested in anything or want to know more about a particular maker, then please get in touch with either Elizabeth Oliver on [Elizabetholiver540@btinternet.com](mailto:Elizabetholiver540@btinternet.com), Amanda Sanders on [mandamaydesigns@gmail.com](mailto:mandamaydesigns@gmail.com) or Estelle St John-Smith on 07817 837781, who can pass on the appropriate details.

*(See opposite page for more beautiful items Made in Avening)*



# Avening School

## Hope and Happiness as We Hop Towards Easter

As the earth bursts with new life and nature springs into action after its winter rest, Avening School is embracing the change in season and spending as much time outside as possible. As I write, two thirds of our pupils are still working from home, while school remains open for key worker and vulnerable families. We are hopeful that we can soon all be together again at school and look forward to a happy and healthy summer term where the school garden and outdoor spaces will be crucial locations for both learning and play.

It is not long now until World Book Day on 4<sup>th</sup> March, when, undeterred by the current situation, we will as usual be celebrating the day in style with energy and enthusiasm. World Book Day is one the highlights of our school calendar and each year we plan our activities around a particular book or author. Previous themed book day events include; Harry Potter Day, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, maths day and last year, Julia Donaldson was our focus. Children are mixed into their school houses for the day's events, which enables children of all ages to work together on the various activities set. Naturally, this year will be different and at this stage, we are planning a theme around happiness, which seems to be what we all need during this challenging time of lockdown and dark days. There will be more details and hopefully photos in next month's article.

Another event we are looking forward to taking part in is the 'Let's count' activity as part of Census day later on this month. During the day, children will be engaged in lots of counting – as a school that is passionate about books and reading, counting books, authors and the genre will be our focus – the purpose being filling gaps in our provision where needed. We were fortunate to receive some funding from the local authority that we will be putting towards this purpose. Hopefully, the project and prior lessons about the 2021 Census will give the children an insight into the important of collating reliable data and making decisions based on evidence.

On the last day before half term break, pupils and staff had to say a temporary farewell to Owls class teacher Miss Smith who has gone on maternity leave with her first baby due in April. The Owls gave her a heartfelt send-off at their virtual celebration assembly and a huge hamper of gifts and cards has been gathered to be sent to Miss Smith on behalf of pupils, parents and staff. Ms Robertson will continue as Owls class teacher with Mrs Gater also teaching the class one day each week.

This half term, we also said a fond farewell to Ms St John-Smith who has been a member of our team since 2013 – as a teaching assistant and more recently as a valued member of the Play Team. We wish her all the very best as she pursues another role made pressing due to the current COVID-19 situation. We thank Estelle for all she has done to support the children of Avening over recent years.

As we write, we look forward to hearing from the Prime Minister about the return to school for the whole community, but, until then, we are incredibly proud of the efforts of the whole school community – whether in school or engaging in online learning. It really

has been a time of resilience, resourcefulness and teamwork – and a special thank you to the parents at home who have ensured that children have been online and with the right resources at the right time: the unsung heroes of this current lockdown.

*For further information about this busy place of learning please see our school website: [www.avening.gloucs.sch.uk](http://www.avening.gloucs.sch.uk)*

*Alex Adcock*



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# Avening Amble Lockdown Treasure Hunt

## Answers

(Numbers refer to questions in February Villager)

1. So where are we time/wise? *Owl sundial at School*
2. Jam from Stoke-on-Trent: *Hartleys Drain Cover in road*
3. How much for a family early bird ticket for Tetfest 2019? *£25*
4. Bruce and Annabelle: *Lee Croft*
5. 828,829: *Grit bins*
6. Mary Poppins fan lives here? *Lots of bird feeders in garden*
7. What colour is the hen house? *Purple*
8. How many pieces of play equipment? *4*
9. Perhaps the home of a pyromaniac, or maybe they have a lot of garden rubbish to burn! *3 fires in garden – fire pit, chimenea and fire bin*
10. How many airbricks in the row of garages? *16*
11. Feel sorry for this creature having to match the colours of the hedgehog: *Chameleon no 34*
12. Where are the Electro-Mechanical Manufacturing Company based? *Scarborough*
13. On reflection, that's a good idea! *Wing mirror clue embedded in wall at No 10*
14. I can ride my horse up here but not drive my cart: *No vehicles up Old Hill*
15. Keen washer-uppers here! *2 sinks and dishwasher in garden of no 24.*
16. How many buttresses holding up the wall? *13 (+ 1 missing)*
17. Clip paddock! *Wingfield*
18. Double identity? Hope my date finds the right location! *Cross Inn/Queen Mathilda*
19. Who must visitors be approved by before they can enter here? *By the dog (Creich Cottage)*
20. No mistaking which family lives here! *The Buchanans Avening*
21. Perhaps they are aiming for bowling green flat! *3 rollers in garden of Avendale*
22. Ding, dong, bell – perhaps puss belonged to a cricketer? *Well at The Stumps*
23. No good coming here to return that parcel to Amazon any more: *The Old Post Office*
24. Rub a dub dub, but I can only see where 2 of them might be! For a bonus, who is the other tradesman living here? *Butchers Arms, The Old Bakery. Millers Cottage*
25. Sterling on the rise? *Pound Hill*
26. Competitive topiary! *Topiary at number 8 and Hatch Cottage*
27. Neat teeth burn: *The Bannut Tree (anagram)*
28. Looks like they are hoping for extra luck here: *2 horseshoes hanging at no. 1*
29. Which car won't get clamped if they park here? *"Audi TT parking only, lesser cars will be clamped" behind The Bell*
30. 1695 – but where? *Glebe House*

31. Pam's place? *Ayres Cottage*
32. If the lane is busy what should you wear? *A face mask*
33. How many Fletcher's are mentioned on the Memorial Hall? *3 in WW1, 1 in WW2*
34. Apr- Oct 9-5 but only 9-3 Nov-Mar – but what? *Churchyard open*
35. What play equipment is on the roof by the gate? *2 (or 3) footballs and hoop*

**Extra bit**

- A. Big chicken house here! *Large chicken house tent at the Dower House*
- B. How many pillars in the arbour and how many bridges through the oval window? *18 pillars, 2 bridges*
- C. Handy place if you get caught short! *Portaloo in the end of the garden*
- D. Bit far to chuck the witch perhaps? Maybe it's just for fun these days. *Seat in garden of no 9 looks like a large ducking stool but quite a way to the lake below*
- E. Who's got the big jugs on display? Ooh er missus! *Big jugs in window of no 7*
- F. Looks expensive enough for the salary of Cotton or Britton, more like a mansion! *Fern Cottage*

*Many thanks again to Sue and John Pobjoy for providing this Treasure Hunt!*

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# Avening Playgroup

I must take this opportunity to thank all the parents for the fantastic work they are doing with their children. The children will benefit greatly from this. I continue to keep in touch with the children and their families via weekly emails to let them know what we would be focusing on at playgroup. Liz and I also chat to the families to check how they are doing.

We have all been working hard to recruit a third member of staff and it gives me great pleasure to say that we think we are nearly there. An offer has been made and references received. We are now waiting for a start date to be confirmed, so look out for next month's article for an introduction.

The topics we would have covered since last month's article would have been: 'Language associated with position, height and width', 'Literacy', 'Numbers 1-6' and 'Chinese New Year'. A few of the activities we would have done are:

- Comparing the length and size of different objects and measuring ourselves
- Playing 'Where's Elmer?' and rolling the dice, counting the spots and carrying out some corresponding actions, such as, clapping, stamping feet and jumping
- Counting objects and finding the correct number as well as looking at a number and finding the correct amount of objects
- Reading stories and talking about the characters and places in them. Acting out the story with dolls, teddies and the children themselves. Talking about what sound our name begins with and what the beginning sounds of objects in the immediate environment are
- Starting to trace over the letters in their names and over the numbers 1-6
- Talking about the Chinese New Year of the ox and what the Chinese do to celebrate this, including what food they may eat
- Colouring the animals of the Chinese calendar as well as making fans and 3D dragons out of egg boxes
- Tasting different Chinese foods, such as, prawn crackers, rice, noodles, crispy seaweed and fortune cookies

I hope everyone has been enjoying doing some of the activities at home and look forward to seeing some photos or the original item when we are able to reopen.

We are currently taking names for the 2021-2022 school year. If you are interested in reserving a place for your child please email Angie on [aveningplaygroup@gmail.com](mailto:aveningplaygroup@gmail.com) or call the playgroup on 01453 832695 mornings, during term time.

*Angie Heslop*



# Letters to the Editor

Dear Editors,

These have been long, dark months – seemingly unending: not only the grey skies and short days, but this year, the overwhelming sadness of the effects of the viral pandemic. Over one hundred thousand people dying in this country alone and thousands more across the globe, is hard to take in and harder still to think of all those who are grieving their loss. Living through Lockdown, though necessary, is agonizingly lonely. Not being able to see our friends or visit our families is hard.

My Faith tells me to ‘seek the Light in all things’. Not easy, but it has made all the difference to me. Finding light in the kindness and generosity of neighbours; the unexpected telephone call, or card; the sudden arrival of a bunch of flowers; a cooked meal left on the doorstep, or knowing others are praying.

I believe that the light is there - only temporarily shaded, but still there, when I seek it out.

*Celia Carter*

Dear Editors,

I got into conversation with one of the many delivery drivers who frequent our house, as they do with so many of us these days. I had seen him around a few times and it was just nice to have a chat. He mentioned that he delivered about 150 parcels a day, had not been doing this too long and was helping his wife, who also did this. He went on to say that he had been furloughed from his day job and could not get back to the country he worked in due to Covid restrictions. I was intrigued. It turned out that he is a geologist who works in Alaska for a diamond mining company. ‘Fly to Anchorage’, he said, ‘then drive for 4 days due north. Only in winter though, when the ice makes it possible. Oh, (and he checked his phone) and it is currently minus 62 degrees there right now.’

Holding the parcel he had just delivered, I pondered this lot and felt rather humble. I was grateful for his cheerfulness and our chat, grateful that he had delivered my parcel, grateful that it was a relatively balmy 4 degrees here and made (another) note-to-self to never take anybody at face value.

*Nicholas Winkfield*



## Avening Youth Club



Avening Youth Club, run by The Door, is cancelled for the moment.

Full details of how to access all of The Door’s services can be found at [www.thedoor.org.uk](http://www.thedoor.org.uk) and on Social Media @TheDoorStroud.

**Want more information about Avening’s Youth Club?** Contact Rev Gerald South on 883456 or Isak at The Door on 01453 756745.

# David Playne

18<sup>th</sup> August 1936 to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021



Ex Avening resident David Playne died peacefully in Cheltenham Hospital on 31<sup>st</sup> January. He was 84 with heart complications and Alzheimer's. Many in the village still have fond memories of the annual pantomime, in which David played an important part.

As a Playne, David's family roots were firmly set in Gloucestershire and the Stroud valleys where the Playne family weavers had

arrived from Flanders (fleeing Huguenot persecution) in the 1600s. Ultimately, they would take over – and make prosperous – wool-producing mills like Egypt Mill, Longfords and Dunkirk near Nailsworth, supplying high-quality cloth for the Royal Horseguards' scarlet uniforms and for the Pope's finest robes, as well as billiard-table baize and tennis-ball fabric.

Growing up in Yorkshire, David had attended the local school and then Ashville College before going to Harrogate School of Art to study fine art for three years. He then completed his deferred National Service in the RAF and, while in the forces, trained as a lithographer; thus his enthusiasm for painting and design would find a new outlet in printed matter.

Once back in 'civvy street', David began his publishing career working for Associated Iliffe Press, soon overseeing the design and layout of magazines such as the *Nursing Times* and *Autocar* (and really enjoying covering the TT races in the Isle of Man!) Next he applied for a job with designer FHK Henrion, whom he greatly admired, and before long became Henrion's chief designer, working on many innovative projects and logos, including KLM airways and Huw Weldon's *Monitor* television programme. David remained firm friends with Henrion until FHK's sad demise in 1990.

In the 1960s, David held a senior post at *Reader's Digest* with an office overlooking Berkeley Square and then later worked with the AA, designing many book projects and their covers – such as *AA Book of the Road* and *Treasures of Britain*, while simultaneously establishing his design studio in Avening – where he would remain for over thirty years.

Arriving in Avening from London – totally unaware of the family connections – David chose to settle close to his ancestral origins purely by coincidence. His in-laws had just

discovered the village and told him it was beautiful. David felt immediately drawn to the area and simply fell in love with The Bannut Tree – albeit then in a poor state of repair, hidden away at the end of the driveway and covered in ivy. David set about restoring the cottage where he soon established his own company and ultimately built a design studio in the grounds. Here he would create yet more wonderful books; many had local inspiration, such as the number one bestseller *The Frampton Flora* and



*The Bannet Tree, New Inn Lane*

*Maud: The Diaries Of Maud Berkeley*, which was one of three books conceived by David that was presented to the Queen for her summer reading at Balmoral.

Meanwhile, he was a visiting lecturer and consultant to many colleges and universities while also being greatly committed to furthering the cause of graphic design on a national and international level, becoming president of both the ISTD (International Society of Typographic Designers) and CSD (Chartered Society of Designers) plus a vice president of ICOGRADA (International Council of Graphic Design Associations).

David was a gifted and talented designer, very proud of his family (sons Mark, Miles and Oliver plus daughter, Clare) who all followed in his artistic and design wake. After a breezy seaside spell in Pembrokeshire (where he named his boat *Martha* after the Playne Mills fiery matriarch) in 2013 David and Gill (his third wife) returned to the familiar, much-loved Cotswolds – to be nearer family – and have been living in Stonehouse for the last eight years.

David continued to work enthusiastically, retiring only when he was 82. He will be greatly missed by all but he leaves behind a vast legacy of books, photographs – and an outstanding collection of family records that have long proved a valuable resource for local museums and historians.

Gill Playne (Editor, author, past director of Playne Books Limited and David’s wife for 28 years said:

“Long before I met David, my mother predicted that I would marry someone who worked with books. She foresaw me standing next to high shelves with tottering volumes like an unruly library from which the books were trying to escape... This would indeed be my lot – and a very happy one too. For over thirty years David and I created books together. David was the driving force behind sales of his book publishing company and a most gifted graphic designer with amazing ideas for new book concepts. I was the editor and author who sought work in his domain and eventually fell in love with – and married – the boss! His enthusiasm, energy and positive attitude saw us through many a crisis while his laughter proved ever contagious. I shall miss him most dreadfully.”

# Stone Stiles in Gloucestershire

## Could you help to discover more?



Did you know in Gloucestershire there are three types of stone stiles - step, slip (also known as squeeze) and slab? Containing cattle requires firm barriers such as a slab but sheep are agile and can manage steps, so step stiles are rare. For centuries stone stiles have provided access across field boundaries to locals walking along ancient pathways as they went about their business. Despite the historic value of these stiles scores of them have been abandoned and some lost forever

Stone stiles are found in many areas of the country with examples throughout Gloucestershire including the Avening and Cherington areas. There is a splendid example into the churchyard at Holy Cross Church.

In 2020 Peter Wilson, a member of CPRE launched **'The Stone Stile Project'**. Peter has extensive knowledge of the history of stone stiles but was surprised to learn there was no comprehensive record of stiles in neither our county nor apparently elsewhere in the country. In association with CPRE and the Cotteswold Naturalists Field Club, Peter's aim was have a record of every remaining stone stile in Gloucestershire before they were lost forever. Through support from these two groups and other keen walkers almost 500 stiles have been recorded but it's known there are at least 100 more stiles yet to be mapped.

When you are out walking, if you spot a stone stile, or if you know of an existing stile, please photograph it, if possible from both sides. Download a Stile Recording Form by going to the CPRE website, <https://www.cpreglos.org.uk/creating-a-record-of-gloucestershire-stone-stiles/> Please give as much information as possible before emailing the form to: [peter.wilson@woodchestervalleyvillage.co.uk](mailto:peter.wilson@woodchestervalleyvillage.co.uk)

Any 'duplicate' stiles are fine as you may have taken a better picture than one already on file and provide more information about the stile.

With the many sightings of stiles across the county, Peter has now launched Phase 2 of the project. He is seeking help on a voluntary basis from local people with an historical knowledge of their own parish; also historians, geologists and archaeologists. The aim is to create a comprehensive record of the history of the stiles before some are 'lost' forever. If you can



help with the next phase or have friends who can, please contact Peter.

The information received will then be available to develop an interactive App. for the enjoyment of everyone who loves the countryside. There is no doubt this will encourage more people to explore our wonderful county adding to their enjoyment of country walks. It will also help wheelchair users and families with children in buggies to plan their walks.

If you would like to make a donation in support of **The Stone Stile Project** please go to the CPRE website where there is a 'Just Giving' page and more details on the Project.

Photographs © **Maggie Booth Photography** Tel: 01453 758621 Mobile:07751 795913

## Cherington Village Hall Reopening

While the Cherington Village Hall has been closed in recent months, the committee had been working hard to ensure that it is open for bookings as soon as regulations allow. We have done everything necessary to ensure that it is safe for all to enjoy when it reopens.

It is a perfect venue for small gatherings such as art groups, bridge clubs, keep fit, book clubs, birthday and other celebratory events, etc... We also offer our tables and chairs for hire.

For more information on hiring charges and bookings please email [camilla@woodlandsbloodstock.com](mailto:camilla@woodlandsbloodstock.com) or call her on **07545054160**.



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# Filming at Holy Cross Church

Dear Resident/Business User Occupier

I am writing to let you know we will be filming scenes for a new period drama at the Holy Cross Church in March 2021. You will see some activity as we prepare, and then a few days later as we remove our sets, props and equipment.

During filming there will be a large number of people at the church, and I know this may cause you some concern. In these difficult times of the pandemic I assure you that our work is allowed under current Government legislation and guidelines. The use of the church for filming is also explicitly permitted in the legislation. These permissions are given ONLY where the Production Company operates under strict Covid protocols in line with British Film Commission guidelines. A link to these is given below. I am happy to send you our company Covid Protocols by email should you want to see them. In summary, all crew make a daily declaration that they are free of symptoms and everyone's temperature is tested on arrival. Masks are worn at all times, and Covid co-ordinators enforce social distancing. Cast and on set crew are in a Red Zone cohort and are swab tested twice a week. A private lab is used. We ask all of you to keep your distance from the film crew for their safety and yours.

We will park our technical vehicles in the Social Club Car park and in the few spaces available at the front of the church. Traffic will be an issue we will manage as best we can. We will take care not to block drives or gates unless by prior arrangement.

To show our thanks for your co-operation and assistance we will make a donation of £500 to the Parish Council.

I may not be at the location all the time, but am always available by phone or email to answer questions and resolve any issues arising. My location manager Owen Twort will be there throughout. He can be reached on 07970 298242. Please also approach any member of the security or locations team; they will be able to assist you.

Kindest Regards

Andy Picheta

Supervising Location Manager *Becoming Elizabeth*

[andylocations@gmail.com](mailto:andylocations@gmail.com) 07785 555863

<http://britishfilmcommission.org.uk/guidance/regarding-covid-19-coronavirus>

*The exact dates for filming are unknown at the moment but will be published on both the church and the parish council websites.*

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# Have Briefcase, Will Travel



Leaving the beautiful city of Budapest I climbed onto a Russian jet for the first time to go to Warsaw in Poland and realised how inferior the fittings and space provided were.

We landed in Warsaw to be greeted by our recently appointed Polish agent whose English was very good – as was his new BMW 500 series car, bearing in mind that this country was until recently a communist state. This started me thinking: as his son had gone to UCLA, who was this guy and my suspicions fell on to the Polish Stasi [secret police] but that was never confirmed.

We were driven to our hotel via the Srodmiescie, the main highway through the city. Having booked in we had a small amount of time to look around before being taken to dinner by our agent. Just down the road was the horrendous Palace of Culture and Science built by the Russians and hated by the Polish people as it looked like a second class cathedral.

We were collected by the agent who said we would be going to eat in the newest and most popular restaurant in town. Imagine our shock to be taken to a new shopping centre ringed by a high fence with armed guards and to be walked into a TACO BELL American fast food joint! It was then I realised that Poland was still very much a communist state in style, which was confirmed the following day.

Our first appointment was with the Polish Fire Service National Fire Chief. On arriving at a modern tower block we were met in the reception by a uniformed officer with the military rank of captain. We took a lift to one of the upper floors and were taken to a door which was beautifully carved and in we went. The sight I was greeted with was like a piece of a James Bond film; behind a huge ornate desk raised up on a platform sat the head of the Polish Fire Service with the rank of Major General and behind him on the wall were two huge crossed flags, one being the Polish Flag and the other the Fire Service Flag. By now I realised that the fire service was run on military lines.

We all had to sit below this man with the Captain acting as an interpreter. After an hour's discussion we were invited to take lunch with the General in his private dining room. Having been walked through this vast building we arrived at a small hall with, again, a very ornate carved door and on entering I found myself in a private dining room as you would have found in any major company's head office. The table was laid out in the most beautiful manner with crisp linen, crystal glasses and beautiful porcelain china.

We were joined by another senior officer who then had vodka poured and toasts were given to various state leaders – all of this in quick succession so I managed to lose some of the drink on the carpet by my seat as I could see myself getting very tipsy. We were served a 4-course lunch by two very attractive waitresses.



Leaving an institution still in the process of change, I was driven to the Polish test laboratories which were outside of the city in a forest. Imagine my amazement on passing a horse drawn cart that had wooden wheels held together by large bands of leather; it was almost medieval. On reaching the laboratories a further surprise awaited me as I thought I was going into a prison camp with high wire fencing and spot lights which made it look like a concentration camp. The buildings were all cast concrete and grey and looked grim.

On entering the reception building we were taken to an interview room that had a single light bulb and a table with two chairs, all very reminiscent of a police interview room. To say I was apprehensive would be an understatement, which was endorsed when the senior scientist arrived, as he looked and dressed like Dr Mengele of infamous fame complete with rimless glasses, but he turned out quite a decent kind of chap who had met a colleague of mine 5 years previously.

After a very good meeting we left and returned to my hotel where I had arranged with one of the Americans to go to the old town for dinner in a famous restaurant. This one small square was all that was left of old Warsaw after the Germans then the Russians flattened almost everything in the city.

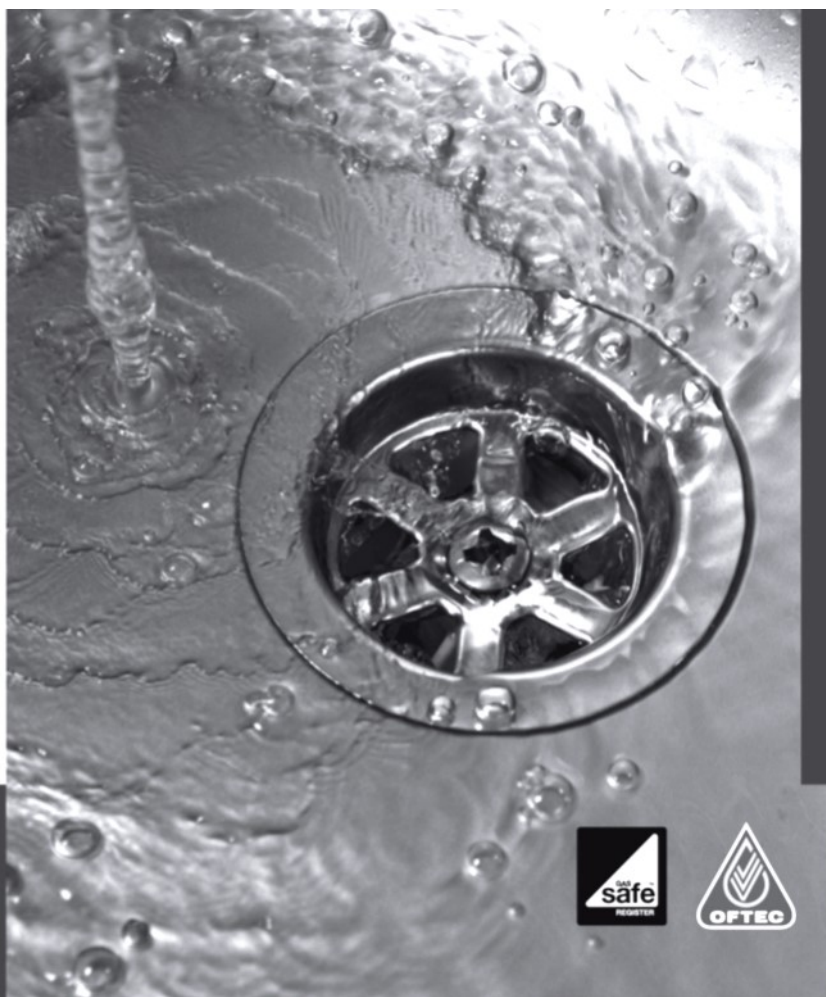
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# Puzzle Answers

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

## Tetbury Goods Shed

Check out the Goods Shed Wednesday night online sessions on Facebook. Each week we will have a performer of some kind - classical, jazz, folk, drama - who will introduce the music they are to perform as an introduction to some of their video material. Performers so far have included A Whole Lotta LED, pianist Clare Hammond, the Spitfire Sisters, James Morton's Pork Chop and actor Gerard Logan reading a children's story. The sessions remain available after the Wednesday evening performances and are totally free. We hope to be able to welcome back many of the artists when we can finally open again - but this will give you a taster of what is to come! Just search Facebook for Shed Sessions and join us for a half hour of escapism! Also a reminder that you can still join The Goods Shed 200 Club for the chance of winning monthly prizes of £100 or more. Further details are on our website [www.shed-arts.co.uk](http://www.shed-arts.co.uk).



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# Avening Parish Council



The Parish Council Meeting via Zoom was held on the 17 February 2021.  
The meeting was open to all residents of the Parish.

## Community Support

Local elections are expected to go ahead in May. Cotswold District Council are asking for as many people as possible to register for a postal vote to maintain social distancing. Please register ASAP.

If you need support the Parish Council website has a list of volunteers or email [covid19@avening-pc.gov.uk](mailto:covid19@avening-pc.gov.uk). Or phone The Buzz on 07403006106

## Controlling Your Dog

The Parish Council have received complaints about dogs out of control in the playground. Please keep your dogs on a lead when walking your dog in the playground.

Dogs are not allowed in the fenced children's area. It is an offence for dogs to be in this area and a breach in this regulation can result in a fine of £100.

## Police Report

This report covers the period of 1st January 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021.

During this period there have been 6 crimes. This compares with 6 in the same period last year.

## Crime Breakdown

Burglary Residential – 0

Burglary Business and Community – 0

Theft – 0

Criminal Damage – 0

Assault without injury – 1

Fraud – 1

Other – 4

There are many scams being reported throughout the Cotswold Policing Area, many of these are automated phone calls asking that 1 should be pressed following the message, you are then told that there has been a fraud committed and your National Insurance Number has been compromised. This is one of many frauds happening. **NEVER** give any details of your NI Number, Bank Account Details, Date of Birth, or any other private information. You will never be asked this in a genuine call.

## Planning Applications & Tree Works

New Applications – Planning

20/04442/CLOPUD: 66 Sandford Leaze. Conversion of Integral garage to living space – No objections

21/00565/TCONR: Avening Court. Works to trees in conservation area. – No objections

## Decision Notices

20/04479/TCONR: Folly House, Point Road. Removal of 3 Oversized Sycamores.

Approved

20/04493/TCONR: Blenheim Cottage, 3 Woodstock Lane Work to Beech Trees. –

Approved

### Potholes and Road Issues

Report the potholes directly to Highways on 08000 514 514 or via their website.

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)

## Cherington Parish Council

The Parish Council Web Site is <https://cheringtonpc.org.uk/> and along with meeting, financial and council business news you may use it to address comments both to council members and to the clerk.



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## Church Floodlighting

The church was floodlit on  
February 7th in memory of **Basil Fletcher**,  
now and always, John, Valerie, Celia and Sylvia

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.

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