

A scenic landscape featuring a dirt path leading through a lush green field towards rolling hills. The sky is a clear, vibrant blue, and several trees are scattered across the hillsides. In the foreground, a wooden gate stands partially open, with a large rock and some foliage nearby. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and rural.

# The Villager

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

**May 2026**

***editors@villagemag.online***

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french

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# May 2026

As we write this in the unexpectedly balmy sunny days of late April, (though no idea what it will be like by 1st May!) it's easy to see that summer is finally on its way!

For example, this month the bears of Avening come out of their long hibernation! Be sure to spot as many as you can on the Bear Hunt around the village on Sunday 17th May. It's always a lovely day, with children of all ages taking part in this great village event—and raising money for the Friends of Avening School at the same time. And talking of FOAS, be sure to pick up those little blue tokens when you are shopping in Tesco in Tetbury and slip them into the voting slot for FOAS. They hope to use any money they get from this in their 'Seed to Plate' project.

Looking slightly further ahead, preparations are well underway for this year's Avening Church Fete, which takes place on Sunday 7th June. Events and activities will include the usual duck races, tombola, WI cream teas and games for the children as well as the fun dog show. Maybe it's also time to think about entries for the photo competition at the Art Show, held on the same day in the Church.

You will find a book of raffle tickets for the draw to be held at the Fete included with this month's magazine. Details of how to return them are on page 16.

Welcome to summer 2026!

*The Villager Editors*

## The Villager Magazine

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Read online at [www.avening-pc.gov.uk](http://www.avening-pc.gov.uk)

## Photographs in The Villager Magazine

So where was this month's cover photo taken? Answers to the editors! 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**

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

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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)**

**Facebook: Avening    Instagram: #aveningvillage**

# Gilian's Poem of the Month

## It Must Be May

Have you seen the green shoots springing in the hedgerows in the lane?  
Putting on their fresh green dresses to welcome back warm sun again.  
Have you heard the blackbird singing in the dawn's soft, early light?  
Or in the rosy blush of evening, heartbreaking hymns to greet the night.  
Have you seen the skylarks winging, high above the grassy hills?  
Soaring, tumbling, sweetly singing a waterfall of notes which spills.  
Have you heard the bluebells ringing in the woods, beneath the trees?  
For just a moment, stop - and listen, hear them chiming on the breeze!

Have you seen the green shoots springing?  
Have you heard the blackbird singing?  
Have you seen the skylarks winging?  
Have you heard the bluebells ringing?

If you have seen and heard these wonders,  
Then you will know

IT MUST BE MAY!

*Gilian Bulmer-Davison*

## Puzzle Corner

### Sudoku

Fill in the blank squares so that each row, each column and each 3-by-3 block contain all of the digits 1 - 9. If you use logic you can solve the puzzle without guesswork.

**Answers on page 34**

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

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# Dates for your Diary

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

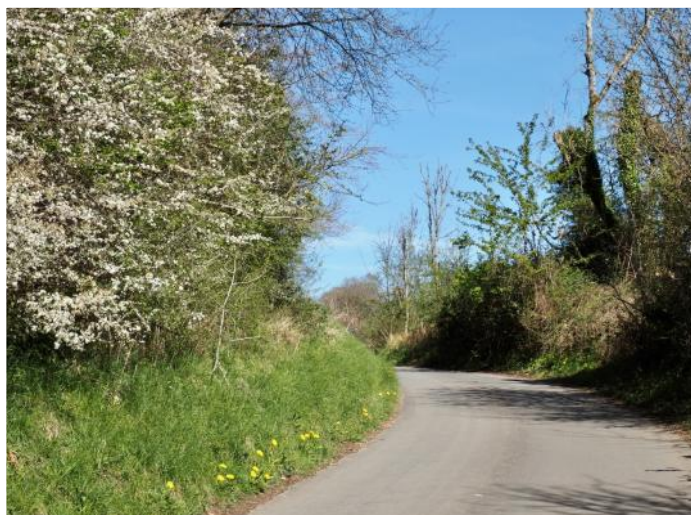
Date	Event	Location	Time
Friday 1st May	No Fledglings	School Garden	
Sunday 3rd May	Reflective Ramble	Starts at St Nicholas Church	4pm
Saturday 16th May	Avening Parish Council AGM	Avening Social Club	10.30am-12 noon
Sunday 17th May	Avening Bear Hunt	Starting at Avening Memorial Hall	12-3pm
Wednesday 7th May	Avening Film Club "The Choral"	Avening Memorial Hall	7.30
Sunday June 7th	Church Fete and Art Show	Holy Cross Churchyard and School Garden	tba

## Letter to the Editors

*The Editors have received the following response to last month's letter about the state of the countryside around Avening and Cherington:*

Dear Editors,

I have lived in Avening since July 1980 and often walk on the lovely lane going to Cherington Lake.



I have always enjoyed the variety of flowers and trees on both sides of the road. I like looking at the tracks made by badgers and deer and listening to the birdsong. In late summer, it's a pleasure to eat the blackberries along the road.

It's wonderful to be surrounded by nature. It's wild, untidy and beautiful in all four seasons.

***Jean-Noël Chatelain***

# Avening and Cherington Churches



*This month we hear from the Revd Tracey Clements, Curate in Minchinhampton.*

## **Neighbourliness, Community, and the Role of the Church**

One of the things I have come to value most about the villages I now serve is the way people look after one another. Although I am still, in some respects, an incomer, I have never been made to feel unwelcome. Instead, I have found kindness, friendship, and a genuine sense of belonging.

The friendships formed here have grown quickly and deeply. There is something very special about village life - about recognising familiar faces, stopping for a chat, and knowing that people will notice if you are not around for a while. It is a quiet but powerful kind of care. I have experienced that support personally during times when I have needed it, through simple but meaningful acts of kindness - meals, messages, practical help, and companionship. It is one thing to speak about neighbourliness; it is quite another to receive it so generously.

We have also seen, as communities, how that same spirit emerges in more difficult times. When tragedy or loss touches a village, people respond instinctively - with compassion, with presence, and with a desire to support those most affected. There is something deeply moving about the way communities come together in such moments, holding one another in care and prayer.

As a church, we seek to respond as well. Services that make space for grief and reflection are an important part of what we offer, particularly at times of year that can be difficult for many. They are a reminder that faith does not ask us to ignore pain, but to bring it honestly before God, together.

So what is the role of the church in communities like ours today?

I believe it continues to hold an important place, whether or not everyone attends regularly. The church is often where people turn in times of sorrow, but also in times of joy - the celebration of a new baby, a wedding, or the marking of a life well lived. These moments are at the heart of our shared human experience.

The church also seeks to embody neighbourliness in practical ways. Through pastoral care and informal networks of support, we try to ensure that no one feels overlooked - whether someone might appreciate a visit, a listening ear, or a helping hand with everyday needs.

One of the reasons I felt called to ministry is because I thrive in community. There is something deeply life-giving about these villages - the sense of connection, the shared rhythms of life, and the care people show for one another.

Perhaps this May, as the days grow longer, we might take time to reconnect - with neighbours, with community life, and with God. The church is here for all of it: for support, for celebration, and for companionship.

And there is always a welcome waiting.

***Revd Tracey Clements***

## Church Services

	Avening	Cherington
<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May</b>	10am – Morning Prayer	4pm – Reflective Ramble
<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May</b>	10am – Holy Communion	
<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May</b>	6pm – Iona Evening Prayer	10am – Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May (Pentecost / Whit Sunday)</b>	10am – Holy Communion	
	3.30pm – Pimm’s and Hymns at Minchinhampton	
<b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May (Trinity Sunday)</b>	10am – Holy Communion	
	5.30pm – Benefice Evensong (Trinity Sunday celebration) at Minchinhampton	
<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June</b>	No service – Church Fete + Art Show	Evening service – details TBC



### Church Floodlighting

The church was flood lit on the following days:

**15 April**

Remembering **Terry Francis** on his 78<sup>th</sup> birthday

And will be floodlit **18 May**

**Terry Francis** – 4 years of missing you, forever in our thoughts

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 **Nicholas Winkfield** on **07885 139275**.

The cost is £10 for 2 hours.



### Donations to Avening Church

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

# Letter from Chairman of Avening Parish Council



While life here in Avening continues at its normal pace; a lot seems to have happened on the world stage since the last edition of The Villager. Not just the wars between the U.S.A. and Iran, Ukraine and Russia; but also, the successful trip by the Artemis 2 crew completing their Lunar Flyby and safe return. For those of us of a certain age; it brings back memories of the Apollo 11 moon landing back in July 1969; 2 astronauts landing on the moon while the astronaut commanding the lunar module orbited around the dark side of the moon some 30 times. I still have memories of seeing the grainy black and white photos transmitted back to Earth. On this latest mission the photography was exceptional and in colour; although the clearly defined craters were somewhat reminiscent of our very own Gloucestershire roads.

**Avening Parish Council:** With some regret, I have to announce that Councillor Stephanie Hamilton has tendered her resignation from the council. We will be advertising the vacancy in due course and look forward to receiving applications; on-line via the Parish Clerk.

I wish, on behalf of all the current Parish Councillors to express our thanks to Stephanie for her many years serving on the Avening Parish Council, and for her dedication and contributions to the many meetings over her time in office. Stephanie will still be our point of contact with the Church and will remain on the board of The Memorial Hall Trustees.

**Avening Village Annual General Meeting:** Important Notice – This annual village meeting will be held on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May in the Avening Social Club, 10.30am until 12 noon. All council members will be present. Councillor James Mills will give a presentation on possible Road Safety Improvements appertaining to Avening; plus, the AGM is the ideal forum for resident villagers to ask questions of the Parish Council or raise any items of concern.

**Playing Field:** Four new park benches have been installed ready for summer weather, some grass seed will be sprinkled around their bases to complete the project.

**Memorial Hall:** Sometimes the best laid plans can go wrong. Due to some technical hiccups, the kitchen units were not manufactured in time as promised, but will be delivered on or around 29<sup>th</sup> April and the installation will be as soon as possible after that date. Following on from the units being installed, the walls will be tiled above the units, new floor covering laid, and decoration of the kitchen area will complete the project.

**Dog Fouling:** I still need to raise the issue – but you know the rest!

Kind regards to everyone.

*Patrick*

***Patrick Mulligan, Chairman, Avening Parish Council Tel 07713 068436***

# Avening Bear Hunt

Sunday 17th May, 12-3pm

Start the trail at Avening Memorial Hall

**£2**  
per map

**WIN!**  
Special Prize  
awarded for  
**Best Bear**

Picnic Lunches

Ice creams

Tea & Cakes

Face Painting

Bear Gift Shop

Book tickets online at  
[www.foas.org.uk](http://www.foas.org.uk)

RETURN YOUR COMPLETED MAP AT THE END OF THE TRAIL TO RECEIVE A TREAT!\*

Raising money for Friends of Avening School | Charity Number 1055040 | [www.foas.org.uk](http://www.foas.org.uk)

\*One treat per map | If you'd like to design a bear, please email us at [foasavening@gmail.com](mailto:foasavening@gmail.com)

# District Councillor's Report



**Cotswold District Council (CDC):** The next full Council is 20<sup>th</sup> May. In the April **Overview and Scrutiny (O&S)** meeting we reviewed the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter financial performance and service performance reports. The former is showing an overall positive position with a £45k greater than estimated variance. Many service indicators are positive, but concerns remain in several areas such as planning enforcement, land charge searches, household recycling, and affordable homes delivered.

**Local Plan:** Following the Government's revised housing policy, an up-to-date Local Plan is needed as soon as possible to protect against speculative development and ensure new homes come with the infrastructure our communities need. The new Local Plan is scheduled to be agreed by Full Council on 12 August, and the next stage of consultation would begin in the week of 24 August 2026.

Over 2,000 people and organisations took part in the consultation at the end of last year, which sought views on high-level, indicative options to meet a target of building 18,650 new homes over the next 18 years.

**Litter:** The response to my question addressed to the Council received a somewhat dismissive response from the Cabinet officer who disagreed with my observations on the amount of litter in our lanes, but I'll continue to highlight issues when I see them.

**Local Government Review (LGR):** A late addition by the Government to the unitary reorganisation was to also include a requirement for a combined authority. The idea is that the area would become part of a larger authority which allows two or more councils to work together on key regional decisions like economic development, transport and housing. Discussions are happening that Gloucestershire could join Warwickshire and Worcestershire in a "Mercia" combined authority with a directly elected mayor. GCC's cabinet and CDC leader, Cllr Mike Every have both confirmed that their preferred options would be to join WECA (the West of England Combined Authority, including Bristol). My preference would be to join up and go north to link in with Worcestershire and/or Hertfordshire/Warwickshire, as we have more in common with these counties.

**Roads:** I was invited to film some video content on the alarming state of our local roads. I don't think a career in 'influencing' is for me, but it was fun doing the filming. You may have seen the list of roads in Gloucestershire to be resurfaced in the coming financial year – for the second year running there are NO roads in the south Cotswolds on the list!

***Councillor Tony Slater***

*Cotswold District Council, Representing Grumbolds Ash with Avening.*

*email: [Tony.slater@cotswold.gov.uk](mailto:Tony.slater@cotswold.gov.uk) Tel: 07793669930*

# Reflective Ramble

*A Common Ground event hosted by St Nicholas' Church*

A gentle walk of up to an hour with pauses for reflection, prayer, and noticing the world around us.



Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May



4pm



Starting at  
St Nicholas'  
Church,  
Cherington



**COMMON  
GROUND**

*Finding God beyond church walls*

All are welcome - whether you are curious about faith, enjoy walking, or want a space to reflect.

Dogs and people of all ages welcome.

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# Avening School

## And we're off.....

We are already flying through the new term with plenty in the diary, starting with a team of pupils participating in the annual Gloucestershire Primary School wildlife quiz, competing against other local primary schools. We also have sports tournaments to look forward to this term, kicking off with a rugby festival for some of our KS1 pupils.

With a new term comes a new class topic and this term the Eagles (r) and Kestrels (y1/2) will be delving into nature with the Eagles focusing on what's in the garden and looking at nature inspired art and the Kestrels exploring the Amazon as they learn all about rainforests. KS2 will be travelling back in time as the Hawks (y3/4) journey back to Ancient Greece, while the Owls dissect our medical history in their topic Doctor, Doctor, looking at diseases of the past and present.

We were immensely proud of Fraser from the Kestrels class last month who made it to the finals of the Gloucestershire Schools Oracy Competition. Not only did he stand up on stage in front of hundreds of unfamiliar faces, he delivered an incredible speech which he wrote himself on animal facts. An unforgettable experience and remarkable achievement. Well done Fraser!

It's that time of year again when Mrs Carter sends home sunflowers seeds in pots for her annual Sunflower Challenge. The winner will have grown the taller sunflower and will be announced in mid-July. A big shout out to the Eagles class who have potted some of the seeds as part of their Random Act of Kindness incentive.

Fledglings forest school session for pre-school children and their grown-ups continue in the school garden every Friday (not the 1st of May) 2-3pm. Contact the school office for more details.



**Alex Adcock**

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



## Friends of Avening School

FOAS has been selected for the Tesco Stronger Together grant programme, through the blue tokens you receive after making a purchase in Tetbury Tesco store. It runs from 28th April to 31st July.

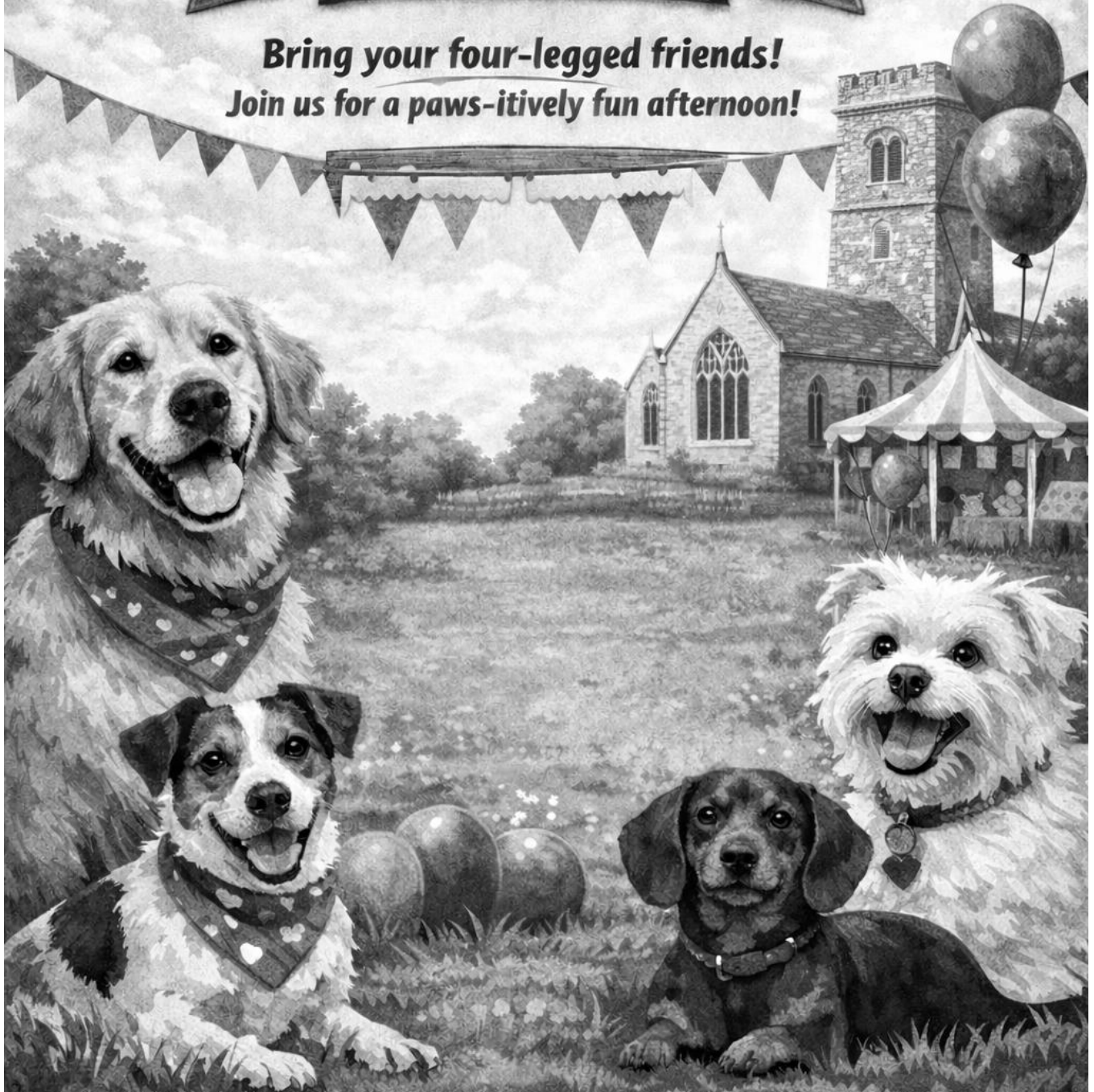
**PAW AVENING VILLAGE FETE PAW**

# **FUN DOG SHOW**

**PAW Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June PAW**

**Starts at 2:30 PM**

***Bring your four-legged friends!  
Join us for a paws-atively fun afternoon!***



***All Dogs Welcome – Big or Small! Please keep dogs on leads and clean up after them!***

***Don't Miss the Fun – A Great Family Day Out!***

**Our fabulous Church fete raffle will be drawn on 7 June.  
And you have just received a book of  
5 tickets @£1 in this magazine!**

<b>1<sup>st</sup> prize</b>	<b>£400 cash</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> prize</b>	<b>£100 cash</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> prize</b>	<b>Afternoon tea for two at The Ivy Cheltenham</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> prize</b>	<b>£50 garden centre vouchers</b>
<b>Plus....</b>	<b>a few yummy hampers.</b>

**So, for a fiver, you get 5 chances to win!**

Duh, yes we know. But for a small village raffle, there are pretty good odds for a decent prize.

No obligation to buy, don't worry.

If you do (and we really hope you do), just pop completed ticket stubs and cash into the return envelope and drop off at:

**The Bell (counter top box)**

**Mullions (letterbox at Nick's house, next to church gates)**

**14 High Street (letterbox at Elizabeth's house)**

**11 Lawrence Road (letterbox at Christine's house)**

**31 Sunground (letterbox at Neil's house)**

There will be just a few more tickets available at the fete itself, the draw being at 4.15pm. Buying a ticket very much helps maintain our lovely 1,000 year old church – every little helps. Oh, rumour has it that you also get a better seat in heaven, but don't hold me to it.

Thank you in advance, and best of luck!

**Nick Winkfield & Fete Team**

## **A Bite to Eat?**

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

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

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

**For prices and any further details :**

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



# New Term 'To Do' List

- Buy new uniform/work wear/shoes
- Pay for school trip
- New work diary
- New books!
- Arrange bus fares
- Laptop? > get necessary equipment!

**ACEEF!\***

\*The Avening Church of England Education Fund have the means to financially support the education of Avening residents up to age 25. To apply for a grant please contact 01453 833016 or email [buchanan.el@gmail.com](mailto:buchanan.el@gmail.com)

**Have a look at the new website for the Avening Church of England Education Fund!**  
**You will find information on the charity and what the grants include (and what is not included)**  
**at [www.aceef.org.uk](http://www.aceef.org.uk)**



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An aerial illustration of a church with a stone tower and a gabled roof. In the foreground, a large blue banner with white text is suspended between two yellow and red striped balloons. The banner reads 'AVENING CHURCH FETE & DOG SHOW SUNDAY 7TH JUNE Starts at 2.00pm'. Below the banner, there are musical notes on both sides. In the center, a red and white striped awning covers a stall where a group of people is gathered. To the left, a family of four is sitting on a wooden bench. To the right, a small pond with three yellow ducks is visible. At the bottom, two women are shown petting dogs. A vertical sign on the right edge says 'START'.

**AVENING CHURCH**

**FETE & DOG SHOW**

**SUNDAY**

**7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**

**Starts at 2.00pm**

**FUN . FOOD. MUSIC. COMMUNITY**

**DUCK RACES, RAFFLE & PRIZES,  
BOTTLE TOMBOLA**

**WI CREAM TEAS & CAKES, SILVER BAND,  
BOUNCY CASTLE & CHILDREN'S GAMES  
PLUS LOTS MORE!**

**AVENING ART SHOW WILL BE IN THE CHURCH**



**Sunday 7 June Avening Church 1.30 – 4.30pm**

**An Exhibition of paintings, printmaking and photography including drawings, sculpture and textiles plus live model sketching**

### **Photography Competition:**

**Age groups + categories:**

**11yrs/Yr 6 and under: 1. Local nature 2. Favourite thing(s)**

**11yrs/Yr 7 up to 18yrs/ Yr 13: 1. Local nature 2. Alphabet(s) in the built environment**

**Adult: 1. Bridge(s) 2. Local Village/Townscape**

**Print out your photos 10cm×15cm(6"×4") colour or monochrome. Add the title and your name.**

**PRIZES: £30 for overall winners; £10 runners up**

**Free to enter.**

### **Calling all exhibitors:**

**Max 4 pieces each; submit your work Thursday 4 June from 2pm and Saturday 2-4pm to the church.**

**Free to exhibit.**

**Contact Liz Bury 07814 410642 with any questions.**

**Now on Instagram - @aveningartshow**

# AVENING CINEMA CLUB



**Wednesday**  
**27<sup>th</sup> MAY 2026**

**Doors open 7pm. Film starts  
7.30pm. Interval halfway  
Please feel free to bring  
refreshments**

## **AVENING MEMORIAL HALL**

**Admission £7 cash only**

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

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



## **MINCHINHAMPTON SPORTILY FITNESS HUB**

Welcome to our community gym. Join us for feel-good fitness that's all about fun, friendship and real results.

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# Down Memory Lane



From the Old Avening and Cherington Facebook page;- what was the event and when, any ideas?

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# Avening Community Café

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

We welcomed Charlotte from Wiltshire Farm Foods to the Café in April and were treated to a free tasting session of their tasty meals, desserts and cakes with the attraction of discounts for new orders. We were pleased to be able to promote something that could be beneficial to the village.

Easter brought better weather and some good Café attendances and it was lovely to see a number of children taking part in the art class as well as listening to story time with Alex in the lounge. As we enter Spring, if you wish to donate any surplus seeds, plants or produce, then please bring along to the Café “Plant table”. Any donations received go to Café Charities.

The village annual art exhibition will be taking place in the church on Sunday 7 June which will feature some of the Café rag rugging and an opportunity to place commissions!



## May Dates

**5th Drop-In Art:** No Art lesson today but materials will be available for any who want to do their own artwork.

**12th Craft morning:** try your hand at quilting, rag rugging or bring your own craft.

**19th Chelsea Flower Show & World Bee Day:** See some of Ian’s bee apparatus.

**Art with Mark** (£3 each, all materials supplied)

Also “**Hope Café**” in the lounge.

**26th Free drinks for Children:** We welcome younger members this Half Term.

*John Hetterley*

## Avening 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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# Citizens Advice: Our Impact 2024-25



**Citizens Advice Stroud and Cotswold Districts** helped 3,500 people last year with a wide range of issues - from benefit claims, debt, housing or employment problems to relationship breakdowns and more - according to their **Impact Report 2024-25**. The advice charity generated £1.8m in additional income for their clients and saved government services hundreds of thousands of pounds by preventing homelessness, housing evictions and reducing use of mental health services.

‘**Our advice has life-changing effects for the people we help,**’ said Chief Executive Elizabeth Hall and the chair of trustees, William Underhill, in a joint introduction. ‘We face the continuing challenge of rising demand for our service,’ they added.

The charity covers the **largely rural areas** of the Cotswold and Stroud districts. The report points out that while the area may be known for its prosperity, there are **pockets of real hardship and exclusion**. Last summer, the charity produced a hard-hitting report on Child Poverty which showed that one in five children are affected in this area. Local MPs all responded positively and pledged to work on the issue.

The Impact Report highlights how much people appreciate the **support navigating complex benefit systems** to ensure that they and their families can get the help they urgently need. In a survey, 85% of people who had used Citizens Advice’s **impartial, independent and confidential advice** said they would not have been able to resolve their problems without this help. The majority (73%) said they felt less stressed and anxious, and 44% said that their physical health had also improved as a result.

The report included anonymised case studies such as that of ‘**Kate**’, a survivor of domestic abuse whose medical conditions left her struggling to afford heating and food. Citizens Advice helped Kate to win her case on appeal after a two-year battle.

Rising costs, low wages and low benefit levels mean that many people today struggle to avoid **unmanageable debt**. Citizens Advice helped to get **£654,723 written off** for desperate households where debt was causing severe hardship.

Citizens Advice Stroud and Cotswold Districts is an **independent charity and part of a national network** across the country. Over fifty volunteers help around twenty paid staff, with trained advisers working also in foodbanks and outreach centres.

In 2025, the charity launched **Advice First Aid** in a county-wide collaboration with Citizens Advice North and West Gloucestershire. Advice First Aid offers **free training to frontline staff and volunteers from local organisations**, such as foodbanks, community hubs and libraries, to help them spot advice needs and provide signposting of services; 150 have been trained so far.

For the full report please visit [www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk) or scan this QR code:



**Helpline:** Calls are free on **0808 800 0510** (Mon-Tues 10-4pm Wed-Thurs 10-12.30pm).

For details about our **free Advice First Aid training**, please visit our website or email [training@ca-scd.org.uk](mailto:training@ca-scd.org.uk)

## Avening WI

With the weather improving but unpredictable, our group of members were pleased that it was a beautiful day when we set off on a walk along the Stroudwater Canal. We started at St. Cyr's Church in Stonehouse and walked to Pike Lock, Eastington, and back. This stretch of the canal has now been beautifully renovated by the amazing volunteers at the Cotswold Canal Trust, and now appears to be fully navigable with all the locks and bridges restored. We crossed the swing bridge and onto the towpath, and the signs of spring were all



around - lots of blossom, wild flowers including cowslips, fluffy bulrushes and tiny moorhen chicks darting in the reeds. The new Ocean Railway Bridge was impressive and the Bond's Mill bridges now restored to full use. Information boards provided interesting facts about the history along the way, including the fact that there was a machine gun installation on top of Bond's Mill Bridge during the war, and that the workers of the Mill were mostly women at that time.



April in AWI brings our popular Village Quiz aka 'Shirley's Quiz'. For many years Shirley Hand has compiled questions for two unique and interesting quizzes, always well supported by villagers whose generosity has meant that we have been able to donate the proceeds to various local charities. Last month's quiz raised money for Guideposts Trust Community Hub Stroud, a friendly place 'where adults with learning disabilities can come together to make friends, have fun, learn new skills, gain

confidence and get involved in their community'. Shirley's daughter, as question master, kept things running smoothly and this year had introduced a music round with tracks and artists to be identified; this was popular with the 'quizzers'. Thank you to everyone who helped and to all the villagers who attended.

The Book Group met recently to discuss 'A Month in the Country' by J L Carr and the

Theatre Group will be going to see 'Double, Double' at The Barn Theatre.

Our group who walked Cotswold Way last year are renamed 'The Wysis Way Walkers' and will be setting off from Monmouth in May, on the first leg of the 55 mile long distance path from Monmouth to Kemble.

At our April monthly meeting we welcomed back Susan Parslow who told us about 'Hidden Salisbury'. This was another excellent talk with many interesting facts and great photographs of the hidden areas of Salisbury. This will be followed up with a coach trip to Salisbury in June with the opportunity to have a guided walking tour with Susan. At the May meeting our speaker will be Will North from The Long Table.

We meet on the second Thursday of the month in the Memorial Hall at 7.30pm. Visitors and prospective members are always welcome to attend...just turn up on the night. For more information about Avening WI please contact our secretary Helen at [aveningwi@gmail.com](mailto:aveningwi@gmail.com) or 01453 835484 or look at our Facebook page.

**Bridget Seward**

## **150 Years of Stroud General Hospital**

The Stroud Hospitals League of Friends is celebrating 150 years of Stroud General Hospital at its current site by presenting an exhibition about the history of Stroud Hospital and how it has developed over the past 150 years. The exhibition highlights the importance of the hospital to the local community, which for most of its history was entirely run by GPs. On display will be an extraordinary model of the hospital made by one of the porters, as well as nurses uniforms, medical equipment, posters, photographs and original drawings. A slideshow will illustrate how the hospital has been extended and rebuilt over time.

The exhibition takes place at the Museum in the Park, Stroud. Dates are Saturday 23rd May to Sunday 31st May. It is free to enter and open throughout the May half term holidays. (10am to 4.30pm Tuesday-Friday; 11am to 4.30pm weekends and Bank Holiday Monday). Dr Simon Opher MP has agreed to open the exhibition on Saturday 23rd May with a small ceremony at 11.15am.

*A quote from Margaret Greaves, Chair of Stroud Hospitals League of Friends : "Stroud Hospital is a unique asset to the community that has withstood the turmoils of the NHS over the past 70 years. The League of Friends has supported and enhanced the hospital, which now provides state of the art equipment and facilities, combined with traditional nursing skills and care to give the best services to the people of Stroud. It's great to celebrate 150 years and we plan to build on this special history into the future".*

***Dr Susie Weir, Trustee, Stroud Hospitals League of Friends***

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# Letter from Roz Savage MP



## A Season of New Beginnings

May is perhaps the most generous of months. Around Avening and the surrounding Gloucestershire countryside, the hedgerows are thick with blossom, the fields are bright with new growth, and the evenings stretch out long and warm. The valleys are full of birdsong, the old stone walls draped in fresh green, and the footpaths that were heavy with mud for months have finally dried out underfoot. After the long pull of winter, there is something genuinely uplifting about watching this landscape come into its full colour.

There is a particular quality to this part of the South Cotswolds in late spring. The countryside feels abundant, full of possibility, full of life. It is a good moment to take stock of what we are working to protect.

One of the things I have been focusing on in recent weeks is the health of our rivers and waterways. I recently met with River Action, a conservation charity raising the alarm about the impact of agricultural run-off on rivers across England. The figures are striking. Agricultural pollution accounts for nearly half of all water pollution in this country, yet it has received far less attention than the sewage scandal that has rightly made headlines. For communities in this part of Gloucestershire, where the streams and brooks that run through the valleys are so much a part of the character of the place, this is not an abstract concern. It is something people notice; in the water quality, in the wildlife, in the small but telling changes to landscapes that locals know intimately. I will keep pressing the Government to take agricultural water pollution seriously, ahead of the forthcoming water reform legislation.

Through my work on the Environmental Audit Committee, I have also been scrutinising the Government's broader approach to nature recovery and climate, holding ministers to account on the commitments that matter for places like this one. The countryside around Avening is a living reminder of what we stand to lose if we get these decisions wrong, and of what we stand to protect if we get them right.

In Parliament, I recently attended an event on long-term thinking in public life - how we build institutions and make decisions that serve not just this generation, but the next. The discussion felt very relevant to communities like Avening: villages that have managed this landscape for centuries, that understand the rhythms of the seasons in ways that no government department ever fully can. Local knowledge matters, and it should be at the heart of how decisions are made.

May is a prompt to act with care and intention. This landscape and community life are worth protecting. I am committed to being a voice for this part of the constituency, and to making sure that the people who know this land best are heard in the decisions that shape its future.

Warm wishes,

Roz

**Roz Savage MP, South Cotswolds**  
Email: [roz.savage.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:roz.savage.mp@parliament.uk) | Call: 01285 300555



# Avening Playgroup

Just like last year, we were very lucky with the weather for our Easter Eggstravaganza, which we held at the beginning of the Easter Holidays. It was lovely to see so many people enjoying themselves and seeing the lovely look on the children's faces when they had found an Easter egg. A big thank you to the committee for organising the event and to everyone who helped before, during and after.

Since last month's article the children have been engaged in the following themes and activities:

**Easter:** Lots of Easter crafts including making an Easter wreath as well as colouring in lots of Easter eggs and chicks.

**Growing plants:** Before the Easter holiday, the children planted sunflower seeds and all of them have grown really well, so we have been talking about what plants need to keep growing. The children have now taken these home to watch them grow further. We also planted some cress seeds and look forward to tasting them soon. The children used green paint on cardboard rolls to make a stem and then drew flowers to stick on the top.



Inside, the children have enjoyed playing in the tent and have put in lots of cushions to make a cosy den. They have engaged in role play activities using the tent, dolls and home corner as well as using the doctor's set to check the health of the babies and pets.

Outside, the children have been enjoying using the chalks to draw around each other on the playground. They have been very active using the different bikes and vehicles to ride around the 'racetrack'. Following a recent donation of old tyres from Frasers Motorcycles in Gloucester, the children have thoroughly enjoyed balancing on and jumping in and around them. We are hoping to use some of the tyres for planters and seats in our, soon to be, forest school area. A very big thank you to Frasers!

If you would like to register your child at Avening Playgroup, please call Angie on 01453832695 or email [aveningplaygroup@gmail.com](mailto:aveningplaygroup@gmail.com) to put their name on our waiting list or to arrange a time to visit the setting. We are open term time, Monday to Wednesday 9am– 3pm and Thursdays for our Stay & Play session between 9.30 and 11.00am.

*Angie Heslop*

## Hope Cafe

**A new monthly event: next one is on 19th May**

**Evening Social Club 10.00-11.00am**

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# Puzzle Answers

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7	2	8	9	8	3	5	4	1
1	3	8	4	5	6	9	7	2
6	7	2	5	9	4	1	8	3
8	1	3	6	7	2	4	9	5
9	5	4	8	3	1	6	2	7
5	6	9	3	2	8	7	1	4
2	8	1	7	4	5	3	6	9
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- May 2** **James Morton's Groove Den:** This amazing saxophonist with new material drawing on his influences from soul, jazz, hip-hop and tough, grooving beats. Tickets in advance £16.50. 7.30pm
- May 6** **Prints at The Shed - an open evening:** A specially curated show celebrating 20 years of the Gloucestershire Printmaking Co-operative across a broad range of print disciplines. Admission free. 6pm
- May 7** **All My Sons: National Theatre Production.** Bryan Cranston (Breaking Bad) and Marianne Jean-Baptiste (Hard Truths) feature in an acclaimed new production of Arthur Miller's classic. Tickets in advance £15. 7pm
- May 9** **Fitzwilliam String Quartet:** Performing the String Quartet No 1 Op 49 by Dmitri Shostakovich and works by Beethoven and Mozart. Tickets in advance £24. 7.30pm
- May 16** **A CODA to Led Zeppelin:** The music of the greatest rock band ever, Led Zeppelin, performed live on stage with no tricks, backing tracks or safety net! Tickets in advance £25. 7.30pm

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# Avening Parish Council



## **Annual Parish Meeting**

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held in Avening Social Club on Saturday May 16<sup>th</sup> at 10.30 am. The subject of the meeting is road safety in the village. Please do attend and have your say. Children welcome and refreshment will be provided.

## **Parish Council Vacancy**

A vacancy has arisen on the Parish Council. If you are interested in participating in the running of the village please contact the Clerk for further information.

## **Roads and Footpaths**

Please report any issues on the footpaths or the roads, on Fix My Street. This is the quickest way to get highways to send an inspection team

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

If it is an emergency, please call 08000 514 514.

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

Ansford Cottage and Blenheim Cottage – Works to trees in a conservation area T1 & T2  
Beech Trees in rear garden – remove T3 Beech Tree. – Object

## **Planning Correspondence and Decisions**

26/00380/TCONR: Star Lane. T1 Ash - Fell to ground level. Symptomatic to ADB, recently shed a large limb that landed in the road.

26/00186/COMPLY: The Old Quarries. Partial compliance with Conditions 3 (sample materials), 8 (design details 1), 11 (rainwater goods), 13 (new windows), 14 (external woodwork), 15 (Garage doors), 25 (Artificial roosting nesting) and 26 (CMS) of Phase 2 of development of planning permission 22/03666/FUL - Change of use of existing buildings from residential institution (C2 use) to residential (C3 use) to form a total of 11 no. dwellings, through demolition of modern extensions, internal alterations and extensions, demolition of modern institutional buildings and replacement with new dwellings, associated garaging, landscaping, construction of new wall in alignment of historic walled garden and associated works.

## **Dog Fouling**

**If you witness dog fouling not being picked up by the owner, please report by following the link below.**

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

**Neighbourhood Policing Team:** Police Sergeant Garrett Gloyn, PC Morley-Blackwell, PCSO Edmund Maina 101@gloucestershire.police.uk

*The Agenda and minutes of the last parish council meeting 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)*

# PIMM'S & HYMNS



**Holy Trinity Church, Minchinhampton**

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May, 3.30pm**

*Come along & join in with your Sunday School favourites*



# Regular Activities in the Villages

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

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

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