

The Villager

A Magazine for Avening,
Cherington and Nags Head



August 2026

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August 2026

By the time you read this the Cherington Fete will have come and gone. We are sure it will be as much fun as usual, with good, but not too hot, weather promised. We would like to have some photos of the wonderful traditional village event in the next issue; please send us any good ones you have, we'd love to see them. Maybe you can give us some thoughts about it; what you liked, or didn't like, and suggestions for other years. All contributions welcome!

Talking of contributions, we would like to thank Ann Tarlton, Alan Watson and Jan Butler for sending in items for this month's Villager Magazine. This is your magazine, and we love to hear from you. Please keep on sending us items. At one time we had a regular gardening page, and we also have occasional cookery and recipe features. Would anyone out there like to contribute regularly on either of these topics? We know there are plenty of keen gardeners and cooks in our beautiful villages.

On a technical note: the editors have, until now, used MS Publisher to compile The Villager. Unfortunately, Microsoft have decided to withdraw the program and we will soon be unable to use it. Is there anyone in the community who has experience of a free or very cheap alternative, such as Scribus? if so, would you be able to give us some advice and suggestions as to what to use and how to use it.? Please contact us on any of the numbers below or on the editors' email address.

Happy and safe holidays to everyone, whether you are staying home or going away.

The Villager Editors

The Villager Magazine

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Read online at www.avening-pc.gov.uk

Photographs in The Villager Magazine

Many thanks to **John Bate Williams** for this photo, taken when he was held up on Cherington Lane by the King's Ayrshires!

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

editors@villagermag.online

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

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VILLAGE & AREA WEB SITES

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

Cherington Parish Council: cheringtonpc.org.uk.

Cherington Village: www.cheringtonvillage.co.uk

Cotswold District Council: www.cotswold.gov.uk

Facebook: Avening Instagram: #aveningvillage

Gilian's Poem of the Month

Sights, Sounds and Scents Of Summer.

In June, July and August in the English countryside,
The sights, sounds, scents of Summer surround us on every side.
With sunshine smiling down on us and colouring all we see,
Bright flowers are blooming everywhere, and there are leaves on every tree.
In my garden roses flower and their scent wafts all around,
And the honeysuckle on the fence is buzzing with busy sound,
As bees all seek the nectar to take back to their hive,
And the scent of new-mown hay drifts in from the fields on either side.

Bright butterflies of every kind are fluttering everywhere,
Attracted by the flowering sweet peas, whose perfume fills the air.
I hear the breeze play in the trees with a gentle whispering sound,
And the leafy shadows down below make patterns on the ground.
In the deep-blue sky, arched overhead, the swallows are swooping high,
And skylarks are singing on the hill, as a hare goes loping by.
The blackbird sings in the cool of the dawn, and others are singing too,
While all day long in the background is the pigeons endless coo.

In my memories of summers past, one sound stands out for me,
That two-fold call of the cuckoo, flitting from tree to tree.
Alas, no more is the cuckoo heard, for he has long-since flown,
But I thank the Lord for the countryside, and the pleasures that I have known..
Living here in the summertime, deep in the country's heart,
With the sights, sounds, and scents of the summer, is all I could ever ask....

Gilian Bulmer-Davison

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Dates for your Diary

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

Date	Event	Location	Time
Thursday August 20th	Play Rangers	Avening Playing Field	10am - 4pm
Wednesday 26th August	NO FILM CLUB IN AUGUST		
Sunday 29th August	Rose Window talk	See page 11	



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Avening and Cherington Churches



Dear friends,

As I write this, it's the last week of term. Avening Primary School have just celebrated and said "goodbye" to their Year 6 leavers, and I'm about to head to Amberley Parochial School to do the same there. But by the time you read this, though, those Year 6s will be looking ahead to becoming Year 7s – the summer stretching out before them, and the anticipation of new schools, teachers, and friends growing every day.

When I was at school, I remember wondering exactly when the transition from Year 6 to Year 7 happened. At what moment did I stop being a Year 6 pupil and become a Year 7 one? Was it the first day of the summer holidays? The first day of the new school year? The moment I put on my new uniform, or when I stepped onto the school bus that first morning? Like so many seasons of life, there isn't a single, obvious moment when that change happens. It unfolds gradually, as one season quietly gives way to another.

Looking back over our lives, we can see countless transitions we've lived through. School years, jobs, marriages, bereavements, homes, retirements – and the many smaller changes that shape us day by day. We often can't identify the precise moment when everything became different; we just look back and realise that, somewhere along the way, we have changed.

There's a hymn that captures this beautifully: *Through all the changing scenes of life*. It begins,

*Through all the changing scenes of life,
in trouble and in joy,
the praises of my God shall still
my heart and tongue employ.*

Those words always remind me of Psalm 103, which begins and ends with the invitation, "Bless the Lord, O my soul", while recalling all that God has done. They remind us that, whatever season we find ourselves in, God remains faithful. Whether we face endings or beginnings, uncertainty or excitement, we never make those journeys alone.

As summer unfolds, perhaps this is an opportunity to pause and notice where God has been at work in the changing scenes of your own life – and to trust that, whatever the next season holds, God will be there too.

With every blessing,

Revd Natalie Jennings



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.

Church Services

	Avening	Cherington
Sunday 2nd August	No services – join us for the Big Top Service 9am at the Big Top, Gifford's Circus, Minchinhampton Common	
Sunday 9th August	10 am Holy Communion	
Sunday 16th August	6 pm Evening Prayer	10 am Holy Communion
Sunday 23rd August	10 am Holy Communion	
Sunday 30th August		10 am Holy Communion
Sunday 6th September	10 am Morning Prayer	4 pm Pet Service

Church Floodlighting



The church was floodlit on:

Monday 27 July

In loving memory of **Angela Kerry** who sadly passed away on this day 4 years ago.

Missed and loved as much today as the day you left this world. Kris, Rob, Kane, Ellie and Ralph xxxxx

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.

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.

District Councillor's Report



I finally received a response from the Head of Highways, or rather the Permit Scheme Manager, and our local Highways Manager. The long explanation as to why they close roads for works is mainly around health and safety – there must be a minimum width on the carriageway for passing traffic to protect the workforce. This is fine, but both the Easter Tetbury-Long Newton closure, and the more recent Avening-Nailsworth 8-week closure could have been opened out of working hours. This would involve the traffic management company (obviously a sub-contractor, usually from the West Midlands) setting up traffic lights each evening and taking them down again in the morning, so the short answer why we suffer long road closures is... MONEY!

I also challenged the necessity of placing 'road closed' signs many miles away from the actual works. This is done because any diversions must be on the same class of road. This is fine, but why don't they have the exact location of the closure to give motorists the option of adjusting their route, or not? I was informed there is no statutory obligation to provide additional information, but they will take this feedback into consideration during the next review and encourage utility and traffic management companies to provide additional information on the signs.

Following several chasers I also received a call from Severn Trent in relation to the ongoing sewage discharges into the stream from the treatment plant at Avening. Work was ongoing last year to install additional holding pools to contain storm water prior to treatment. The system went live in January, and since then there have been zero incidences of sewage leaks, and the really good news is that the reedbed system is so well specified that they are confident there will be no more leaks during the life of the system!

At the June Overview and Scrutiny meeting, we reviewed the latest Financial and Performance reports, which were generally satisfactory. The one huge ongoing concern is the under-performance of the Planning Enforcement team, which still has a hardcore backlog of some 700 cases. A triage process now prioritises listed buildings and tree works for new cases, but unfortunately if you are reporting a lower priority planning breach you will be waiting a long time for the case to be actioned. It was interesting that the 'backlog' date was fixed in 2024 following an independent review, and I challenged that this date should move with the passage of time. In reality, the true backlog is likely to be much higher than 700 cases.

We should receive a response from the government in mid-July to advise us which option for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) they have decided to apply, so more about that next month (see page 12). Also due in August is the draft Local Plan. This will be debated at O&S, and an Extraordinary full Council on 12th August. So, an unusually busy summer at CDC!

Councillor Tony Slater

Cotswold District Council, Representing Grumbolds Ash with Avening.

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

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SATURDAY 29TH AUGUST

ALL ARE WELCOME



6.00PM
DOORS OPEN



6.30PM
ILLUSTRATED TALK
Jack Clare will share stories
from his work in stained
glass restoration.



7.15PM
THE NEXT STAGES OF
THE WINDOWS PROJECT
David Thackray will outline
our plans for the future.



7.30PM
TIME TO CELEBRATE
Wine and soft drinks



FREE ENTRY

Donations gratefully received
in support of the restoration of
our church windows.

Everyone Welcome

Please bring friends, family and
anyone who may be interested.

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Letter from Chairman of Avening Parish Council



Last month I decided against producing a Chairmans letter as in general things were very quiet and there was nothing of real significance to report. However, there are now a few things to mention and reminders to issue.

Avening Parish Council: An important reminder that we need an additional Parish Councillor to join Avening Parish Council. I would much prefer to have volunteers come forward rather than having to use 'Press Gang' tactics. If you feel that you would like to have an active role in your community, please come forward and have that conversation with myself or the Parish Clerk to discuss exactly what's involved. Alternatively, everyone is welcome to come along to any Parish meeting to observe the structure and business conducted. As I have mentioned previously, the Parish council is non-political and works in unison for the benefit of the village of Avening. Contact details for the Parish Clerk and all the Parish Councillors are available on the Avening website.

Road Safety in Avening: Reminder: A copy of an insightful and detailed presentation by Cllr James Mills on the subject of Road Safety and how we might look to improve the issues caused by the increasing traffic on the Avening roads is posted on the Avening website (www.avening-pc.gov.uk) and constructive comments would be welcomed.

Memorial Hall: After several years of painstaking negotiations with The Athelstan Trust, we are within weeks of finally agreeing the details of the lease to the mutual benefit of the School and the Hall Trustees. So far, this has taken eight revisions of the details of the lease to ensure that in future years there will be no confusion or grey areas within the details of what is expected by both parties.

The Memorial Hall is undoubtedly our main village asset. I have heard rumours that there have been some negative comments about the amount of money that must have been spent on refurbishments over the last few years. To be clear: - all the monies spent have been a combination of grants and self-funding from the Hall receipts. Being just over 100 years old the structure needs some necessary tender loving care.

The new kitchen units in the Chamberlain Room have now been installed and we have purchased a number of new comfortable chairs to be used by any adults hiring the Hall. However, there are still works to be done – during the school summer break, the floor will be inspected to determine its true condition. Either it can be restored or it will need to be replaced. The Hall and the Chamberlain Room will be redecorated to maintain its attraction as a desirable venue for hire and other users. Looking ahead, future improvements to be considered may include discrete solar panels, and improvements to the exterior presentation of the building. The main point to emphasise is that the Hall is destined to be self-funding; and in the years ahead may be in a financial position to contribute funds to other village events.

Roads: Difficult not to mention the roads, diversions and pot holes! It seems to be an annual event. We do make regular comments and complaints to Highways and mostly receive prompt actions or promises to rectify problems. (there are exceptions!) It is

noticeable that road verges seem to have been neglected, with the result that visibility on bends and junctions has deteriorated.

Single Unitary Body – Gloucestershire: The long-awaited decision has now been made – we will have a single Unitary Authority and not the alternative East/West split resulting in two authorities. Details, too long to be included in this letter, can be found online, following the decision of the Rt Hon Steve Reed OBE MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government.

N.B. There will be no Parish Meeting in August, next meeting is in September.

Kind regards to everyone.

Patrick Mulligan
Chairman, Avening Parish Council. Tel 07713 068436

Puzzle Corner

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

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Sudoku

Fill in the blank squares so that each row, each column and each

3-by-3 block contain all of the digits 1 - 9.

If you use logic you can solve the puzzle without guesswork.

Answers on page 37

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Avening Playgroup

Due to the positive changes we have made, the hard work from both our committee and staff, and also due to the increasing demand for our lovely setting, we are now able to offer a playgroup session on Thursdays. Our opening hours from September 2026 will be:

Monday: 9.00am – 3.00pm

Tuesday: 9.00am - 3.00pm

Wednesday: 9.00am – 3.00pm

Thursday: 9.00am - 3.00pm

The playgroup will remain closed on Fridays. This will be reviewed on a regular basis and is dependent on numbers of children attending. Unfortunately, this does mean that we can no longer offer the Stay & Play session on Thursdays. We were hoping to run a couple of Stay & Play sessions during the holidays but, unfortunately, that is now not going to be possible.

During the summer break, we are very fortunate to have a team of 15 volunteers from Spirax coming to help with various jobs around the playgroup. We will be repainting the interior of the playgroup, painting the external walls, creating new storage solutions, developing our undercover area and completing the outdoor 'forest school' area. It will be a busy day but we are looking forward to seeing all the improvements!

Our Annual General Meeting will take place in the Autumn term. The date and time are yet to be confirmed. Everyone is welcome! Avening Playgroup is a charity and as such it needs to have a committee of volunteers to run it. The committee meet each half term at the playgroup to discuss fundraising, health and safety, safeguarding, staff training and maintenance issues. It is also a lovely way to meet people and be able to have a say in how and what your child learns whilst at playgroup. We are currently looking for new committee members as well as a Chairperson and Treasurer. Without a full committee we are not permitted to open, regardless of numbers of staff and children. Please email the playgroup if you are able to help and for more information. Please note the playgroup is closed from Friday 17th July for the summer break and will reopen on Thursday 3rd September.

Over the last few weeks, we have been looking at:

Space: making junk model rockets, foil moon rocks, drawing and colouring aliens, as well as looking at the different planets and putting them in size order.

Mini beasts: Lots of colouring, drawing and painting mini beasts, doing a minibeast hunt, playing on the tuff tray with lots of mini beasts hidden in the wood, petals and leaves, making playdough mini beasts.

However, our main aim has been to try and keep the children comfortable and cool, so there has been lots of waterplay!

I write this article in our final week of term and we have been saying goodbye to all our leavers. This week we had the end of year celebrations and we were joined by the leavers' parents at the end of session to see them presented with their medal, certificate, Learning Journey and gifts. This year we have six children who will be leaving us to go to school. They returned from their move through days, at Avening Primary School, excited and raring to go. Most of them cannot wait to start school in September. We wish them all the best for their new adventure!



We have limited spaces left for the autumn term, so if you would like more information about the playgroup or to place your child on our waiting list, please call us on 01453 832695 (term time only) or email aveningplaygroup@gmail.com. Hope you all have a lovely summer and look forward to welcoming the children at playgroup on Thursday 3rd September.

Angie Heslop

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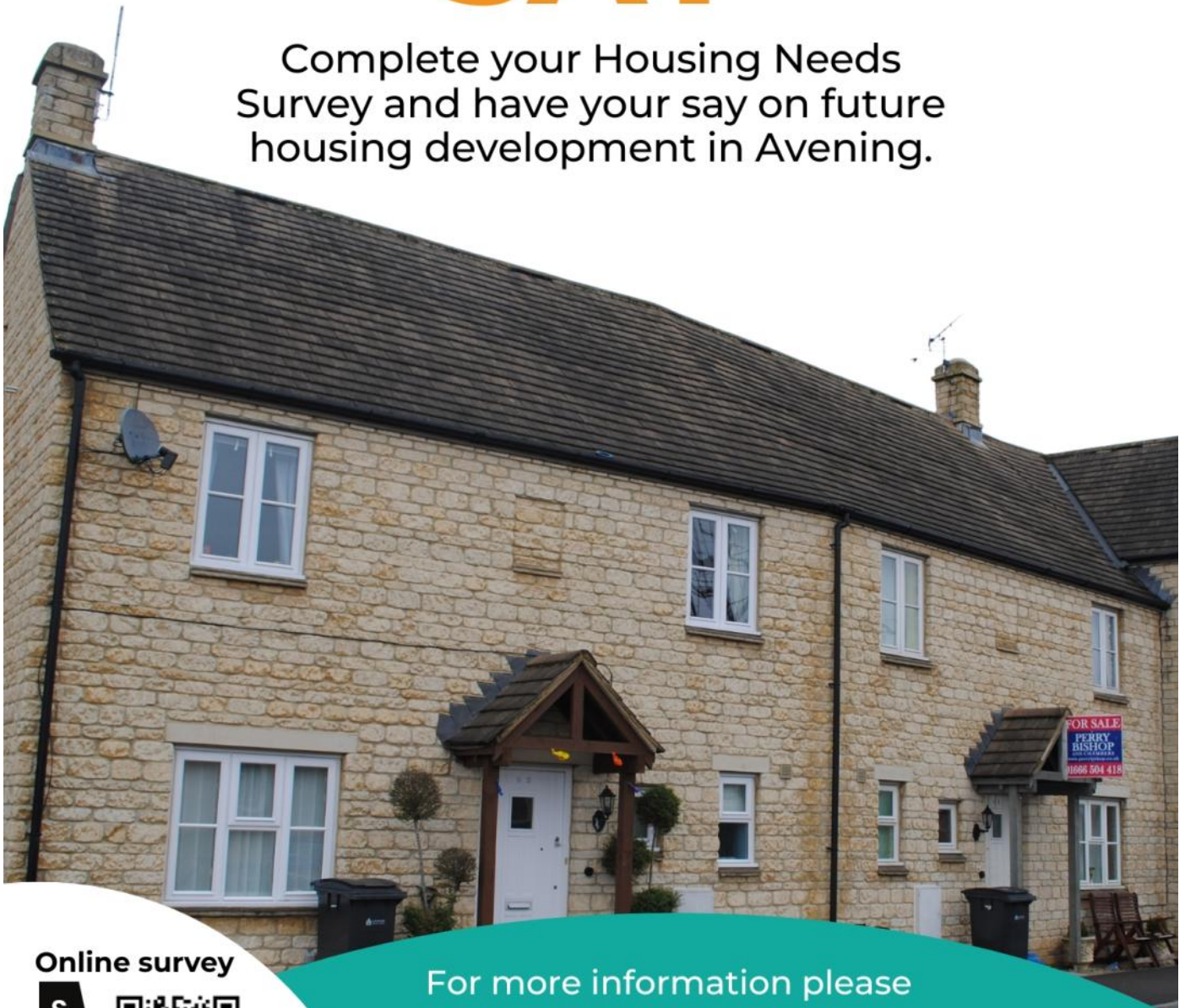
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Your Voice, Your Village:

Why We Need Your Input on Local Housing

Our communities are changing fast. Finding the right home is becoming harder for many residents. Young professionals cannot buy their first flats. Growing families need more space. Older residents want to downsize safely.

Housing affects everyone in our villages. We must understand our actual local needs. We are launching the Community Housing Survey. We need your input today.

The Housing Challenge We Face

Local workers are being priced out. Grandparents cannot find accessible bungalows nearby. Young people live with parents longer to save money.

Without accurate data, developers guess our needs. This leads to expensive luxury housing. These projects do not match our community's reality. We want to change that narrative.

Data Shapes Our Future

This survey is a powerful tool for local advocacy. Your information will directly influence:

- **Affordable Housing:** Proving the exact income brackets needing support.
- **Property Sizes:** Showing the balance of flats versus houses.
- **Specialized Living:** Identifying demand for accessible retirement homes.

Local Infrastructure

Ensuring schools and roads expand with housing. Concrete community data forces planners to listen.

Your Privacy Matters

Housing and finances are deeply personal topics. This survey is completely anonymous. Individual answers cannot be linked to you.

Act Before the Deadline

Filling out the survey takes less than five minutes. Your impact will last for decades. Do not let others decide our future.

The deadline for all submissions is the **end of September**. You can participate in several ways:

- **Online:** Scan the QR code on your community flyer or click the digital link below.
- **Paper Copies:** Pick up a physical copy at your local community venues.
- **By Request:** Contact the team directly at affordablehousing@grcc.org.uk to request extra paper forms.



Avening School

An action-packed end of term

And in the blink of an eye, here we are, at the end of the academic year already! What an exciting and engaging year we have had at Avening School. From school trips to visitors - birds (owls & chicks), insects (caterpillars) and human - to musical performances, author events and sports tournaments; the year has been jam-packed with enrichment opportunities on top of all the fabulous learning that has been happening on a daily basis. Our pupils have proven how important it is to take part and enjoy experiences, regardless of the outcome. This year, one of our pupils made the regional finals of the annual Oracy competition and our Nature Team won the first leg of the primary schools' nature quiz. We have also enjoyed musical performances from world renowned musicians, travelled to Birmingham NEC arena for Young Voices and every class has visited the theatre.

The last few weeks of term were full of activity with our annual musical soiree, showcasing the musical development of our pupils, our sports morning which took place in the brief period of cooler temperature, and our well-being walk in the last week of term.

It is always with mixed emotions that we bid farewell to our Y6 pupils, many who have been at Avening School since reception. While it is sad to say goodbye, it is with great pride that we wave them off on their way up to secondary school. The pupils hosted a tea party at the end of term to thank their parents and members of the school community for their support during their time at Avening and they shared their personal memories at their leavers' assembly. A huge thank you to FOAS for providing each Y6 pupil with their hoodie which were presented by our special guest, Reverend Natalie.

We also bid farewell to our wonderful Miss Maizie, who has been a TA in the Kestrels for almost two years and is leaving to take on a new role as a class teacher. We wish her well in her new school.

In the penultimate week of term, pupils moved up to their new year group for three move-through days to enable them to experience being in their new year groups/classes ready for September. During this time, we also welcomed our new starters in reception, who joined us for taster sessions as they get ready to start their educational journey.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank members of our local community who volunteer to listen to children read, help with forest school sessions and teach our pupils to learn musical instruments. We would also like to thank our wonderful governors who monitor and support the learning and strive to maintain the high standards and inclusivity of our school. A huge thank you also to FOAS for all their fundraising events throughout the year which enable us to purchase and update vital resources for the school.

We wish everyone a wonderful summer break and look forward to reporting again in the October edition. For more information about this busy place of learning, please see our school website: www.avening.gloucs.sch.uk.

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Avening Playgroup!

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9am-3pm**

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FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

FOR AGES 2-4

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Email:

aveningplaygroup@gmail.com

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to help people find a way out of a crisis?



When David (*not his real name*) stepped into his local foodbank, he and his disabled wife had been left without enough money for essentials due to an issue that delayed their benefits claim. "I walked into the foodbank desperately worried and not knowing what to do next," he later wrote. Thanks to the support of a Citizens Advice adviser based at the foodbank, David received expert advice alongside an emergency food parcel. **"It was like being enveloped in reassurance and compassion... we felt hopeful and positive about the future again,"** he said.

Stories like David's are common. Most people who use a foodbank never expected to. A sudden illness, caring responsibilities, redundancy or a relationship breakdown - and rising living costs - can quickly turn life upside down.

That's why *Citizens Advice Stroud & Cotswold Districts* works with **South Cotswolds Foodbank** to provide **trained advisers on site**. Many people who visit a foodbank need help with benefits, debt, housing, employment issues or energy costs. Our advisers help people understand their options, access the benefits they're entitled to, manage debt and take steps towards financial stability.

You can support this important work by joining the *South Cotswolds Foodbank's Run for Resilience* team at the **Cirencester Half Marathon on 1 November 2026**.

Registration is £35; the suggested fundraising target is £200. You'll get a branded running top, support with training and fundraising, and up to 6 weeks after the event to complete your fundraising challenge.

To register for the race, please email info@southcotswolds.foodbank.org.uk

*Citizens Advice helps with a range of issues. For information and self-help guidance, visit citizensadvice.org.uk. To speak to a local adviser in the Stroud and Cotswold Districts, visit citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk to complete our **webform** or call us on **0808 800 0510***

Sandford Trust

Small grants are available from the Sandford Trust, a charity for local young people going on to university or work based training. We would welcome applications from anyone living in the parish of Avening, on or before 11th September, after which the annual distribution of funds will be made.

To apply for a grant please write to:



Kelly Wilkinson
Larch House
Pound Hill
Avening
Gloucestershire
GL8 8LZ

Memories of Alaska

In contrast to the current hot spell, I thought it might be refreshing to read about the wonderful time Geoffrey and I spent in America's largest state - Alaska.

We had been in Vancouver and took a boat from there to Sitka, which is south-west of Juneau the capital and as we were heading in that direction we were suddenly surrounded by a wonderful school of dolphins dancing and spinning up and down in the water as if to say "Welcome to our magical country".

We sailed on for a bit and the passage our small but sturdy boat took was through a myriad of islands all densely forested with pine trees. In fact that particular species of pine is called the Sitka pine which, by coincidence, Geoffrey had planted many years ago alongside the road between Yew Tree Cottages and Grove Park. Sadly, they obviously didn't like the climate or soil of Cherington so never did very well there. But they certainly thrive in their native country and it was lovely to see what they really should have looked like.

On we sailed through lots of small islands and it wasn't long before we saw a bunch of sea otters bobbing about in the rather grey water which is home to them from birth to death. They live in it and off it - their offspring are conceived and born there and their life-span is roughly 35 years. They have no predators - at least not in the waters off Alaska - because killer whales don't venture that far north.

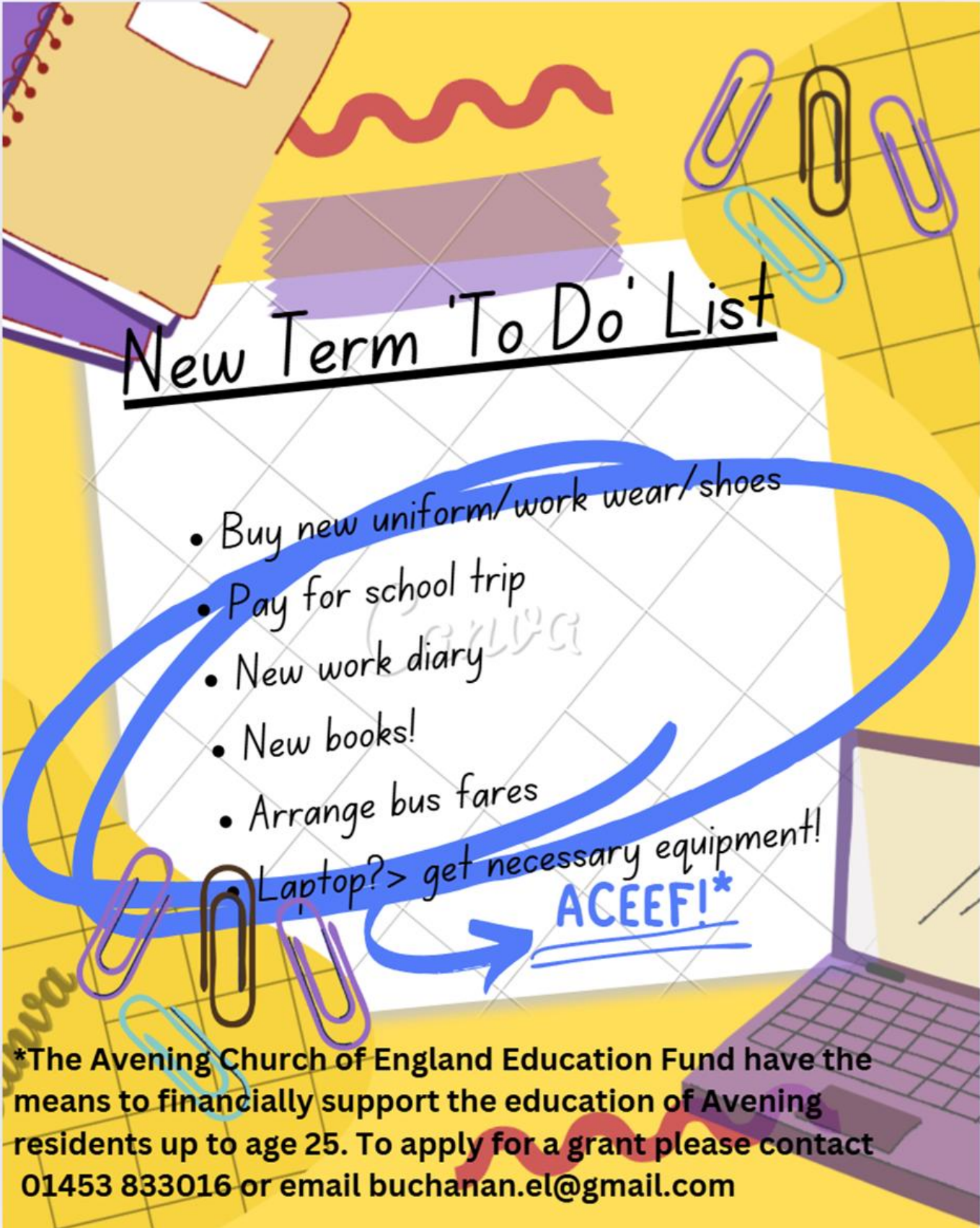
Moments later, what appeared to be a collection of golf balls on the tops of pine trees turned out to be the heads of a bunch of American Bald Eagles surveying the scene from their vantage points high above the ocean. One by one, as if on cue, they majestically took off in a mighty sweep round and round again enabling us to see their enormous wing-span and what power they had in flight. Indeed their nests seemed rather precariously sited on the tops of not over-substantial pine-trees rocking in the breeze.

The captain of our, thank goodness, sturdy little boat warned us we were about to head out into the Bay of Alaska and would be hitting some fairly rough water in order to see the elusive whales. I think we must have developed cast-iron digestive systems in a very short space of time because we took a fair old battering but it was worth it - a spout suddenly shot up and there was our first sighting of a whale. They're quite tricky to follow but suddenly from way over the other side another spout shot up. This one gave a real star-quality performance of a huge back-flip up into the air giving us enough time to see just how enormous a creature he was.

Then it was going-home time back through the still-heaving grey waters of the Bay of Alaska into the calm water of Sitka harbour and on to the port of Juneau.

Ann Tarlton

I'll continue with the Alaskan Adventure in next month's edition of The Villager.



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

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



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Play Rangers Activity Day 30th July & 20th Aug 10am-4pm



Free kids activities at the Playing Field for all U14s.
U7s must be accompanied by an adult.

No registration required
(kids are free to come and go).



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Screaming Swifts



By the time that you read this, the swifts will have probably left the UK and will be on their way to Central and Eastern Africa. During their brief stay, they have delighted us with their aerial displays as they fly and emit their excitable scream around the buildings in the village and high over the valley.

According to the RSPB, swift numbers have declined by 70% between the years 1995 to 2024. There are a number of factors for this decline; changeable weather patterns, decline in the numbers of airborne insects and spiders and a lack of suitable nest sites. Although there is little we can do

about the weather and the lack of food we can provide suitable nesting sites.

Swifts like to build a nest in holes in buildings and underneath tiles that they find suitable. As old cottages are renovated and new extensions built many of these nesting sites are destroyed. We had to have a new roof laid a few years ago and we knew swifts had a nest under the tiles. We tried to put the tiles back in their original place and we also put up two swift boxes close to where they nested. The following year, much to our delight the boxes were being used, and so we put up a third box.

Swift bricks can be inserted into any new build and nest boxes can be positioned on the side of a house to attract nesting birds. We have three swift boxes on the north-east side of our house in Star Lane and of those, two have successfully raised chicks this year. They also seem to be exploring an area of tiles to hopefully build a new nest.

It is wonderful to watch the swifts flying close to the house and knocking on the boxes to encourage the youngsters to come out and join them. There can be a dozen or more birds screaming around the roof at the same time.

We find great pleasure in providing these boxes and watching the birds. We hope that they might inspire other people in the village to provide nesting boxes for these delightful and iconic birds.

Mark Glanville lives in Bristol and has 42 boxes on the sides of his house. He also has a website Bristolswifts.co.uk and writes a blog about his experiences. The website provides information about where to purchase boxes and provides practical advice.

If you have swifts nesting on your property, or would like to put up a box or would like some advice, you can contact me by email at watsonstar@btopenworld.com

Alan Watson

Letter to the Editors

Dear editors

On Sunday I received a text from Severn Trent about water usage and included the request: 'Please use less water especially in the garden to help avoid restrictions'.

Yesterday in the evening when walking the dogs I passed a garden where the sprinkler was on, half of it coming over the wall and watering the verge and road! Many of us love our gardens and want to keep them going in this unprecedented hot weather but water usage is becoming an issue. I use a watering can to ensure the water goes where it is needed. A road doesn't need it.

Food for thought.

Jan Butler

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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 look forward to seeing you at the café on Tuesday mornings where you can enjoy a slice of home-made cake or cheese scone and a good cup of coffee. Why not pop down to meet family and friends during the summer holidays.

On 11 August we will be celebrating International Cat Day – there will be prizes for those children in the best cat fancy dress/masks. There will also be crafting events and story time with Alex for children throughout the summer holidays.

Let us know if you have any ideas to improve our weekly café mornings – such as themes or activities. Thank you to our teams of helpers, especially when they follow our theme of the week - our new team headed by Karen recently treated us to a Wimbledon Strawberries & Cream special and Belinda's team created an Open Golf Tournament display.

A reminder that if you have any surplus plants or garden produce, then please bring along to the Café Plant table. Any cash donations received go to Café Charities.

August Dates

4th Art with Mark (£3 each, all materials supplied)

11th Theme: International Cat Day – fancy dress

18th Art with Mark (£3 each, all materials supplied)

25th Normal Café with crafts

(Hope Café is taking a break until Tuesday 15th September).

***John Hetterley
For Avening Community Café***

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**



For One Weekend Only!

New circus show debuts in Minchinhampton this summer as the next Moment of Wonder comes to town.

Churches Together in Minchinhampton invite you to their very own weekend of wonder, with exciting events from Friday 31st July until Sunday 2nd August.

Featuring performances by visiting artists Millie Whitestone, Sky and Alby in a show curated by Andy Bewley (Writer and Director) and Claudia Weston (School of Larks, Stroud), prepare to be amazed by circus feats, gymnastics and wonderful singing.

Hosted in partnership with Minchinhampton Baptist Church, the wonder begins at Holy Trinity Minchinhampton on Friday 31st July at 4:30pm with a relaxed performance of the circus show for those with additional needs, where there will be more space, less noise and reduced lighting.

Then on Saturday morning their doors will fly open again at 10am for the first full performance, (later shows at 1pm and 3pm) as well as a reflective space and treasure hunt - all for FREE

Pay as you feel refreshments will be served throughout the weekend.

Visitors will also get their chance to see the incredible "Burning Bush" art installation by local artists Pyrite Creative.

The weekend of wonder continues into Sunday 2nd August at 9am at the Gifford's Circus Big Top - join the team for this special Sunday service followed by refreshments back at Holy Trinity Church.

Volunteers from both churches as well as the wider Festival of Wonder community will be on hand throughout the weekend to support guests and make them feel welcome.

The event is part of the Moments of Wonder series brought to you by local charity Ignition Gloucestershire. More details can be found at festivalofwonder.org and by following @FOWStroud on social media





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Down Memory Lane



Avening 1919

A photo of Avening just after WWI, probably taken from where the playing field is now. Avening Mill, now converted into residential buildings, is bottom left. What else can you recognise?

Many thanks to Sarah Smith and the old Avening and Cherington Facebook page for this photo.

Avening WI

The highlight of AWI's summer events was the Group Meeting held in late June in the beautifully decorated Social Club. We hosted a delightful and highly successful group meeting, welcoming members from Tetbury WI and Kemble & Ewen WI for an enjoyable evening of friendship, competitions and entertainment. Sixty members from the WI's, together with VIP guest Rev. Natalie Jennings, and two representatives from GFWI, enjoyed a welcome drink while chatting with friends from the nearby WIs.



Members had taken part in a variety of competitions on the theme of celebrating poetry: these included poet cakes, rose table decorations and collages to illustrate Maya Angelou's poem 'STILL I RISE'. Congratulations went to Avening WI who were presented with the Group Cup as the overall winner. Kemble and Ewen WI's president had the highest individual points score and was presented with the Plate.



Having been served a delicious 3 course meal, guests settled down to hear the evening's speaker, Dalziel Ellis - a poet, BUT not as you know it! Her performance was hilarious, moving, thought provoking and thoroughly entertaining and included poetry, limericks, stories and songs; she received warm appreciation from everyone present. A wonderful evening was had by all.

The Book Group's choice for July was 'The Place of Tides' by James Rebanks. Sue Swan who leads the group wrote this review. "It is set in The Vega Archipelago of Norway, just below the Arctic Circle. The descriptions of the local landscape and wildlife are enchanting and it tells of an amazing and inspirational lady called Anna, who is determined to revive the ancient, local tradition of caring

for wild Eider ducks during their nesting season, and then harvesting the highly valued eider down left in the nests after the ducks and their brood have gone back to the sea. We are reminded of our planet's ever decreasing ability to cope with all we throw at it and are encouraged to do the very best we can in our own little corner. In conclusion we really enjoyed this book and would highly recommend it."

The speaker at our June monthly meeting was Kate Peake talking about 'The Wye Valley Tour'. Kate treated us to a very interesting film tour from the source of the Wye to the River Severn, interspersing each short film with some interesting facts and figures. She uses a drone for filming and has lots of rules and regulations to bear in mind when choosing an area to film. She explained how she is self-taught and that her films take much longer to edit than to film. It was a perfect film tour for a very hot evening, calm and beautiful with

lovely accompanying music.

In the coming weeks our 'Bite to Eat' service will be catering for several events and will take our turn at the Community Café. We have a walk along the Stroud Canal planned, followed by lunch at The Long Table, Brimscombe. A guided tour of Chavenage House, with afternoon tea, promises to be an enjoyable occasion. The 'Wysis Way Walkers' will be tackling the next leg of their journey from Ruardean to north of Mitcheldean.

We meet at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall on the second Thursday of the month. Visitors and prospective members are very welcome to attend. However, we do not have the usual monthly meeting in August but take the opportunity to have an afternoon Summer Social to which past members are invited. We will be entertained by Frances Fry with 'Music, Musicals and Me'

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

Bridget Seward



August 8 Music for Miniatures: designed especially for babies, toddlers and young children, **A Teddy Bear's Picnic** is a relaxed, interactive live concert featuring flute, oboe and piano. Bring your favourite cuddly companion along and enjoy 45 minutes of beautiful live music. Little ones are welcome to move, dance, wriggle and listen in whatever way suits them best. Children over 1 £5, Adults £7, Family ticket £17. 10.30am

August 8 Rupert Egerton-Smith Piano Concert: Starting out as a strategy consultant Rupert left the corporate world in 2020 to build up a career as composer and pianist – an ambition he has clearly achieved! Tickets in advance £20. 7.30pm

August 15 The Festival Players Comedy of Errors: This open-air play is one of Shakespeare's shortest and most farcical comedies. Bring a cushion and a picnic but indoors if wet! Tickets in advance £18(U18£12). 2pm/6.30pm.

August 22 GMT- Gamble, Manninen & Thompson: a collaboration between three seasoned international musicians, **Patsy Gamble:** Award-winning session saxophonist and vocalist (Mick Jagger, Paul Weller), **Muddy Manninen:** Renowned Finnish guitarist and long time guitarist and songwriter for Wishbone Ash and **Keith Thompson** (Keith Thompson Band/Steve Winwood/Jigantics): Acclaimed UK blues-rock guitarist and songwriter with over 25 years on the European circuit. Tickets in advance £16.50. 7.30pm

For more details of our other events including film, talks, exhibitions, and afternoon tea concerts and to book tickets visit our website:

www.tetburygoodsshed.co.uk



Letter from Roz Savage MP



August in Avening - by Roz Savage MP

August in Avening is one of the quieter pleasures of representing South Cotswolds. The village sits in a fold of the Cotswold escarpment in a way that feels almost deliberately sheltered, the kind of place that takes a little finding and rewards the people who know it.

One of the things I hear most consistently from residents in villages like Avening is concern about being overlooked. Not dramatically, not all at once, but incrementally; the bus route that gets cut, the GP surgery that becomes harder to get an appointment at, the planning decision that changes the character of a lane that has looked the same for a century. These things accumulate, and they matter, and I want to be clear that they stay on my agenda.

Rural GP access is one of the most persistent issues I hear about across this part of the constituency. Avening residents depend on practices in Nailsworth or Tetbury, and both are under real pressure. The Government has made commitments on expanding the GP workforce, but the gap between what is promised and what people experience when they try to book an appointment remains wide. I have been pressing NHS commissioners consistently on what they are actually doing to improve access in rural areas, and I will keep doing so. If you have had difficulty getting a timely appointment, I would like to hear from you - the more evidence I can bring to those conversations, the more weight they carry.

Road safety on the lanes around Avening is another concern I hear about regularly. The speeds at which some vehicles travel through small villages and along narrow connecting roads are a genuine hazard, particularly for cyclists and walkers, and the feeling that highways authorities treat rural road safety as a lower priority than urban road safety is one I take seriously. I am pursuing casework on this in the area and would welcome hearing from any residents with specific concerns.

On the Cirencester Hospital campaign, I want to reassure residents that this continues at full pace. The petition has been delivered to Downing Street, the Integrated Care Board has been pressed for written commitments, and I will not let this rest until residents across the constituency, including those who depend on the hospital from villages like Avening, have the guarantees they deserve.

If you have a concern to raise, please do get in touch. My team and I always try to help in anyway we can.

Warm wishes,

Roz Savage MP, South Cotswolds

Email: roz.savage.mp@parliament.uk / Call: 01285 300555

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Avening Parish Council



Parish Council Vacancy

A vacancy has arisen on the Parish Council. Anyone interested in helping with the running of the village is invited to contact the Clerk for further information.

Parish Council Meeting

There will be no Parish Council meeting in August. The next meeting will be held on 9 September. All residents are welcome to attend. The Parish Council and Clerk will continue to work during August.

Roads and Footpaths

Please report any issues with roads or footpaths using Fix My Street. This is the quickest way to alert Gloucestershire Highways and request an inspection. <https://fixmystreet.gloucestershire.gov.uk> In an emergency, please call 08000 514 514.

Planning Applications & Tree Works Since the Last Issue, and Parish Council Decisions

New Planning Applications

June 202626/01865/FUL, 51 Nags Head Lane – Erection of an external bike shed in the location previously planned for the relocation of the existing oil tank and associated works. No Comment

CDC Planning Correspondence and Decisions

26/01805/TCONR, 6 Old Hill – The garden contains a mature Western Red Cedar which periodically requires reduction to prevent damage to phone lines and reduce shading in the garden. This work was previously carried out in 2017 and 2022 and is required again. Permitted.

Dog Fouling

If you witness dog fouling that is not picked up by the owner, please report it using the link <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. The Parish Clerk can be contacted via email: parishclerk@avening-pc.gov.uk

TONY'S CHARITY QUIZ NIGHTS

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Puzzle Answers

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



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Regular Activities in the Villages

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

Event	Day	Time	Where	Contact
Avening Silver Band	Monday	7.00-9.00pm	Memorial Hall	aveningsilverband@gmail.com
Avening Church bell ringing	Monday	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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