



WELCOME

The Villager

A Magazine for Avening,
Cherington and Nags Head

October 2026

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October 2026

Welcome to the October edition of the Villager; a bumper issue this month thanks to a number of individual contributions from some of our readers. Thank you, and do keep them coming - it's always so good to hear from you and see your photos.

As usual, there is lots going on in the villages. Don't forget the apple pressing on Saturday 3rd October outside the Memorial Hall; you just bring along your apples and a container and go home with lots of lovely juice, all made from your own apples, and all free!

The Community Café always has lots going on, and if you have a friend who has never been before (they don't have to live in the village) bring them along on 13th October and you will get a free drink. As well as regular events like Art and the Hope Café and themed sessions, including their spooky Halloween café on 26th, they invite occasional guests. In September it was the turn of Jennie South, who came with a fascinating display of Fair Trade items and information and it was really informative and interesting. I'm off to try the - apparently very palatable - FairTrade wine available in the Co-op in Nailsworth!

So plenty to read here as we settle into cooler weather and there's less incentive to go outside!

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The Villager Magazine

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Photographs in The Villager Magazine

Many thanks to **John Hetterley** for the spooky front cover photo.

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

Autumn Days

The blazing heat of Summer's gone, and the nights have long drawn-in,
But crisp days of Autumn lie ahead, 'ere Winter storms begin.
Scarlet and golden berries deck the hedgerows on either side,
With birds enjoying juicy fruits, while squirrels find nuts to hide.

The morning air is crisper now, with even a touch of frost
But the sun still shines on golden days 'though it's burning heat is lost.
Pale gold and bronze and scarlet flow across the countryside,
As bright October's glorious touch flings colour far and wide.

Walk through the woods on October days, where leaves crunch underfoot,
And all the trees wear bright new crowns for a happy, festive look.
The air is warm, blue skies above, beneath a gentler sun,
If you can catch a leaf as it floats down, you'll have a happy day to come!

The golden mists of morning can feel mysteriously sad,
With memories of days long-gone and joys that once we had,
But October's melancholy mists soon lift to brighter days,
Though the air is tinged with cooler hints with Winter on its way.!

And even when the days are dull, and cloud banks fill the sky
October clings to Autumn, as the year drifts gently by.....

Gilian Bulmer-Davison

PETER SAVAGE

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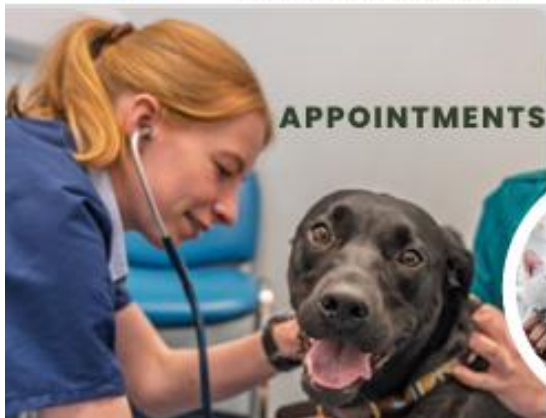
Dates for your Diary

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
Saturday 3rd October	Apple Pressing	Outside the Memorial Hall	10am – 1pm
Friday 9th October Thursday 9th November	Avening School Open Day	Avening School	9am -12 noon
Wednesday 7th October	Avening Playgroup AGM	Playgroup Building	7pm
Friday 6th November	WI Quiz	Avening Social Club	7pm for 7.30pm



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APPOINTMENTS MON - FRI & SATURDAY (AT NAILSWORTH)

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Avening and Cherington Churches



This month we hear from Revd Canon Howard Gilbert

The Art of Empathy: How to Disagree Agreeably

On the first Monday of each month, the Cotswold Club in Minchinhampton hosts the 8pm, Pints and Perspectives: an informal gathering where people of all faiths and none come together to discuss some of the big questions of life and, occasionally, death.

Recently, led by Revd Natalie, we tackled the question of how to disagree agreeably. One word kept coming back: empathy. Empathy is more than simply being polite, or saying, “I can see where you're coming from.” It is the genuine attempt to understand why another person sees the world differently from us. We discovered three empathy habits: be curious, be present, and reimagine.

First, be curious: Instead of immediately preparing our counter-argument, ask: Why do they think this? What have they experienced that I haven't? Second, be present: Actually listen, rather than waiting for our opportunity to speak. And third, reimagine: Look for the possibility that disagreement might contain an opportunity, perhaps even a little hope, rather than simply being something to win.

This is a strangely appropriate theme for us at harvest time. Harvest festival (on the first Sunday in October) will remind us that what we grow depends partly on what we cultivate. Perhaps the same is true of our relationships and our communities. If we cultivate curiosity, attention and generosity, something good may grow.

Jeremy Clarkson's battles with the planners over his farm provide an amusing example. His frustrations have often brought him into conflict with officials, as once he had taken issue with environmentalists. Yet, through running the farm, he came to understand more about the environmental challenges he previously dismissed. You don't have to change your mind completely in order to understand someone else's point of view.

And churches, of course, are hardly strangers to disagreement! Indeed, churches can be remarkably good at arguing about things that outsiders might regard as rather mysterious. We often sometimes find ourselves caught between competing expectations and I have stopped trying to keep everyone happy, and now celebrate (tongue in cheek) that our benefice of local churches have something to upset everyone!

Perhaps the answer isn't to eliminate the disagreement, but to approach one another with empathy. Now, the real challenge of empathy is not how much empathy we have, but who we have it for. It is remarkably easy to have too much empathy for people “like us”. It is much harder to extend it to “them”, to people who might vote differently, worship differently, belong to a different club, live somewhere else, or simply see the world through different eyes.

I have a dream, that in politics, on social media, and yes, even in the Church, we might learn to disagree agreeably. Not because our differences don't matter, but because the person on the other side of the disagreement matters too. That, perhaps, is something worth cultivating, and something we can all dream of harvesting!

Church Services

	Avening	Cherington
Saturday 3rd October		6pm Harvest Festival
Sunday 4th October	10am Morning Prayer	
Sunday 11th October	10am Holy Communion	
Sunday 18th October	6pm Evening Prayer	10am Holy Communion
Sunday 25th October	10am Holy Communion	
Sunday 1st November	10am All Souls' Service	6pm Songs of Praise Service

Church Floodlighting



The church was floodlit on:

10 September In loving memory of **Richard Capman (Dick)**
who left this world 10 years ago.

Not a day goes by when we don't mention your name. You are
still missed so much.

Kris, Rob, Kane, Eloise & Ralph

30 September In loving memory of **Michael Powell**.

Though a man born of Kent, he was always grateful to
Avening and Holy Cross Church where he was married again and is buried.

With undying love from Thelma, Kevin and Columba

And will be floodlit on:

7 October In loving memory of **Digby Harris**, a wonderful father and
grandfather,

who sadly passed away 7 years ago.

Always in our thoughts, love Bryony, Bong Su and Lily

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.

District Councillor's Report



Local Government Review (LGR) – This certainly isn't the update I was expecting to give you! Following the change of Prime Minister and as a result of several applications for a Judicial Review by other councils, the government has decided to 'put on hold' plans for LGR in 14 areas including Gloucestershire. The previous ambitious timescales mean there is no chance that any changes will be made before local elections in May, so instead of choosing councillors for a new county-wide administration, the elections will be for Cotswold District Council – which was due to be abolished in 2028. Confused? I'm not surprised!

Preparations for the LGR changes have put an enormous strain on the officers throughout the county and have come at a huge financial cost. It also means more uncertainty for the public and will be of particular concern for employees - we are now left not knowing what will happen beyond 2028. If the plans are resurrected it could mean another election at a cost of around £250k just in the CDC area alone, in addition to ramping up the programme of work to make it happen.

I've asked the council leader to claim back the costs incurred from the government – it might at least deter them from launching ill thought-out initiatives that cost us millions!

The Electoral Matters Working Group has considered a review of polling stations, and a report will be presented to Council on 23 September with proposals for change to be consulted on. Every polling station needs a Presiding Officer and Poll Clerk, along with the necessary stationery and equipment to run the poll effectively. Other costs include building hire and delivery/collection of polling screens. The aim of the changes is to make savings and improve efficiency while still ensuring polling places remain convenient for electors.

The proposed changes in Grumbolds Ash affecting Avening and Cherington are:

Current venue	Parish	Proposal
Cherington Parish Hall	Cherington	move to Avening
Memorial Hall, Avening	Avening	add Cherington

Please let me know your thoughts.

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

Annual Village Apple Pressing — Saturday 3rd October



Always a popular event, apple pressing returns on Saturday 3rd October.

Bring your apples down to outside the Memorial Hall between 10am and 1 pm and have them pressed. Please bring containers to take your juice home.



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.

Puzzle Corner

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

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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 41

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EXTENSIONS • CONVERSIONS • PLANNING APPLICATIONS • LISTED BUILDINGS

Letter from Chairman of Avening Parish Council



Always nice to relay some good news – we have secured the services of a new member on the Parish Council. Emma Maskel, a local resident of some five years, has been voted onto the team as the newest member; and as a bonus it keeps the balance between male and female councillors. I will include a ‘pen portrait’ of Emma in the next publication, and her contact details will be available on the Parish Website in due course.

Road Safety in Avening: A second 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 and constructive comments would be welcomed.

Memorial Hall: Our principal village asset has undergone a complete redecoration over the summer holidays, including repairs to the toilet area, Chamberlain Room and kitchen where parts of the walls and ceilings needed remedial work to bring it up to the standard we wish to maintain. The lease with the school is nearing completion (at last!) subject to a few minor points of clarification. The Memorial Hall funds are looking in good shape which will enable the Trustees / Parish Council to give thought to the next stages of its development such as Solar Panels, and a new floor might possibly be needed.

Roads: Parking I believe will always be a problem area for Avening as more and more cars are being owned by villagers. Can I ask that we all try to be good neighbours, and be as accommodating as possible, avoid leaving vehicles in potentially dangerous positions; particularly corners or where the roads are relatively narrow, and leave footpaths clear for pedestrians to negotiate safely.

Dark Sky Area: The prospect of achieving a ‘Dark Sky’ area in Avening was discussed and the Councillors would welcome comments from villagers, for or against the idea. Essentially it would involve street lights being dimmed or turned off during night hours for the benefit of wildlife.

Village Fete?: The subject of a village fete was discussed. The current Church Fete may be becoming a bi-annual event and therefore could be supplemented every other year by a village fete. Whilst it would not be a Parish Council responsibility; we would welcome volunteers to come forward to organise and oversee such an event. The Parish Council would look favourably towards giving some financial support to any such plans. Please contact the Parish Clerk if you are interested in becoming involved.

Kind regards to everyone.

Patrick

Patrick Mulligan Chairman, Avening Parish Council. Tel 07713 068436

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.

Many thanks to all those who have brought in spare garden produce and for donations made to the Café charities – this year we are supporting the Longfield Community Hospice and Mark Townsend Charitable Trust.

It was great to have the return of story time for children in the summer holidays in the lounge with Alex.

We always welcome new faces at the Café and on 13 October encourage members to bring along a friend or neighbour and receive a free drink. On 27 October our theme will be Halloween where once again we look forward to seeing you in your spooky costumes. As its half term, there will be treats for our younger members.

Advance notice – the Café are planning another village litter pick on Tuesday 10 November.

October Dates

6th Art with Mark (£3 each, all materials supplied)

13th “Bring-a-friend” this week and get a free drink

20th Art with Mark (£3 each, all materials supplied), Hope Clinic in lounge

27th Theme: Halloween – come in fancy dress, treats for the children.



.John Hetterley

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**





Avening School

And we're off!

We are delighted to be back at school after a lovely summer break. Pupils have settled in well to their new year groups and routines. Learning is well underway in all classes with our brand-new reception pupils learning all about each other in their term topic 'all about me'. The Kestrels (y1/2) are focusing on the local history of Avening and 'seasons' in their science work, while the Hawks class (y3/4) are travelling back in time to the Stone Age for their history topic, with a geographical focus on earthquakes and volcanoes later on in the term. The Owls class (y5/6), meanwhile, are focusing on the local area through time.

As ever, enrichment plays a significant part of our curriculum at Avening School, recognised in our recent Ofsted for which we received a glowing report and a 'Strong' for Personal Development and Wellbeing. This term, children will be able to choose from a wide variety of after school clubs with art and music on offer to the younger pupils and for KS2, we offer sport, Young Voices, puzzle/board games and STEM club. We are also fortunate to have Mr John Hall from Avening Brass Band who runs Brass Band club free of charge. In addition to after school clubs, pupils can learn to play a musical instrument with violin, cello, piano, clarinet, bassoon, recorder and guitar lessons on offer each week during the school day. And for those who want to join a band, IRock offer drum, electric guitar, keyboard and vocal lessons every week.

The term got off to a flying start for the Owls Class who spent three days at PGL Liddington for their residential trip where they got to participate in activities including archery, aero ball and trapeze. The Hawks class will be visiting the Corinium Museum in Cirencester later on in the term as part of their focus on the Stone Age.

Open Days – Friday 9th October and Thursday 5th November.: Come along and see our wonderful school in action. Our open mornings are Friday 9th October and Thursday 5th November. You are welcome to drop in anytime between 9am and 12pm, no need to book. Tours will be conducted by members of our school council and followed by tea/coffee and cake, and a chance to talk to governors and staff at the end.

Fledglings' pre-school forest school sessions – every Friday during termtime in the Avening school garden 2-3pm: Calling all parents/grandparents/carers with pre-school children. Come along and join us on Friday afternoons between 2-3pm for our Fledglings sessions in the school garden. Fledglings provides forest school activities for young children and their grown-ups, including marshmallows around the campfire and pond dipping as regular features. Open to everyone, not just families connected to the village or school and no need to book. We look forward to seeing you there!

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

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Playgroup

Special guests!



We are incredibly excited to announce that we now have TWO regular special guests joining us at our playgroup!

Steph from Croc N Roll will be continuing to deliver fun-packed music classes on Monday afternoons.

Holly from DramaTots will be bringing a jam packed session on Thursday afternoons full of role play, music and movement.

Limited spaces available!

Tel: 01453 832695

Email: aveningplaygroup@gmail.com

Website: www.aveningplaygroup.co.uk

Charity Registration number: 900618





Avening Playgroup

As well as decorating and building new storage for the playroom, over the summer holiday, we were busy recruiting for a new member of Bank Staff. The successful candidate is Tina Boulton, who lives in Avening with her husband and has three grown up daughters. Tina used to work at the playgroup many years ago and has been a Teaching Assistant at both Avening Primary School and St Mary's Primary School, Tetbury. She holds a Level 3 Qualification in Early Years Care and Education, and is excited to be working back in an Early Years environment. We are looking forward to welcoming her to our team.

We have had 7 more children join us this term and we hope they and their families will all enjoy their time with us.

So far, this term, we have been helping the children to settle in, giving them lots of opportunities to explore all the different areas in the setting so that they can become familiar with the equipment and resources on offer to them. We are also reminding them to follow the playgroup routine and supporting them in building new relationships, not just with the other children but also with their keyworkers and the rest of the staff.

We have also been looking at 'Ourselves' – drawing and painting ourselves, making faces out of playdough, making face collages and talking about what we look like. One family brought in the game 'Operation' for the children to look at and talk about.

We have some very exciting news: not only do we still have Steph from Croc 'n' Roll join us every other Monday afternoon, we are now also joined by Holly from Dramatots on alternate weeks, either a Tuesday or a Thursday. This week's theme was the circus, which the children thoroughly enjoyed!

Please note our AGM is due to take place on Wednesday 7th October at 7pm, in the playgroup building and everyone is welcome!

Spaces are filling up for this year, so if you are interested in a place for your child, please call Angie on 01453 832695 or email aveningplaygroup@gmail.com to book a time to have a look around and put your name down.

Angie Heslop

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.

Wedding Thank Yous

We wanted to take this opportunity, through The Villager, to say a very big thank you to everyone who helped make our wedding day in Avening so incredibly special on 8th August.

Getting married in Avening Church was particularly important to myself and Laura, as the church has been part of our families life for generations. It was in the 1950's that both sets of my grandparents were married there, Archie and Edna Powell in 1953 and Rose and Bernard Simmonds in 1959. Skip forward to 1992 and my parents John and Helyn married in this church as well as Laura's parents Mike and Julie, also in 1992.

To continue that family tradition and exchange our vows in the same church was incredibly meaningful, and made the day feel like a very momentous link between the generations of our families.



We would like to say a very special thank you to Reverend Natalie, Stephanie and Steven, for their part in our wedding service and for making us feel at ease. Thank you to Gill who also helped tailor the church flowers to our colour scheme.

We would also like to thank the Avening Singers for helping to make the service so beautiful and memorable and the bell ringers, whose ringing before and after the ceremony was a moment we will remember for years to come.

We need to say an enormous thank you to the Avening Women's Institute, who put on the most amazing afternoon tea for us and our guests. It was absolutely wonderful and the care and effort that went into it did not go unnoticed and continues to be spoken about by our family and friends weeks after. The food was delicious and we really can't praise them enough for their friendliness, attention to detail, professionalism and the most amazing food. Catering for a wedding is no easy task, but catering for a wedding on a farm, in a marquee in the middle of a field is quite something else. So thank you again for all of your exceptional hard work.

One of the things we particularly loved about our wedding was how much of it was supported by local people and local businesses. So many of our wedding suppliers were local and it felt very significant to have so many people from the surrounding area involved in making our day happen. From the preparations through to the day itself, the support of local businesses and individuals helped make the day feel truly special with a true sense of community.

There are so many people who contributed and we hope you will forgive us if we haven't mentioned everyone individually. Every kind word, helping hand and thoughtful gesture meant a great deal to us.

Our wedding day was everything we could have wished for and the love, friendship and support we received from the Avening community made it all the more special. Farming in Avening, following in my family's footsteps, is something I aspired to do as a child. Getting to marry in our village and church that mean so much to us all is truly special.

We feel very lucky to be starting our married life as part of the Avening community.

With our thanks

Sam and Laura Powell

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TOWN HALL NAILSWORTH

The Bayeux Tapestry

I thought it would interesting to see if Queen Matilda, the donor of our church, featured in the Bayeux Tapestry - she was the wife of William the Conqueror after all. But despite the fact that there are hundreds of men, 190 horses and 35 dogs pictured, only 6 women appear, and just two are recognised. There's Edith of Wessex, seen warming King Edward's feet at his deathbed, and there's also Emma of Normandy, the wife of Ethelred II and mother of Edward the Confessor; a naked man (and that's not the half of it) appears close by, perhaps as a rude reminder that she was stripped of her lands and wealth for having an affair with a Bishop. Odo, William's half-brother and the Bishop of Bayeux, who commissioned the tapestry, must have had a wicked sense of humour... or perhaps it was the Canterbury nuns who weaved it.

So not Matilda. There is, however, a panel missing, which would most likely have covered William's Coronation at Westminster Abbey on Christmas Day 1066. This turned out to be something of a farce, as when cheers of affirmation ran out in the Abbey the Norman soldiers outside thought it was an assassination attempt, and riots broke out. All the spectators rushed out of the church, leaving William and the clergy literally shaking. So much for being a tough guy.

Matilda was absent from that ceremony but she had a good excuse, as at that time she was ruling Normandy as Regent in William's absence and was also pregnant; she wasn't crowned as Queen of England until 1068. And whilst I was disappointed not to find any reference to her in the tapestry, its appearance in the British Museum is at least a reminder that our own unique village celebration in the form of Pig Face Day has, incredibly, also lasted a thousand years. Long may it continue.

Which reminds me, I don't believe that there is any reference to Queen Matilda in the church, which is a pity. I know that she wrote off poor Britrick, but fair enough, the donation of our church was her penance. A plaque to be unveiled at Pig Face Day next September perhaps?

Roger Lindley





Avening WI invite you to a Fun Quiz Night in the Social Club on **Friday 6th November 2026** at 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm start

Teams of 4 people - £24 per team to include a Ploughman's Supper

Proceeds to go to Sunflower Suicide Support

Everyone welcome to join us



Some photos sent in by our readers



Thanks to Roger Grant for this intriguing photo taken during a recent thunderstorm. Captured in the cloud with a flash of lightning is a face! Can you see it?

Thanks to Tony Slater for the photo of his granddaughter helping to deliver last month's Villager.



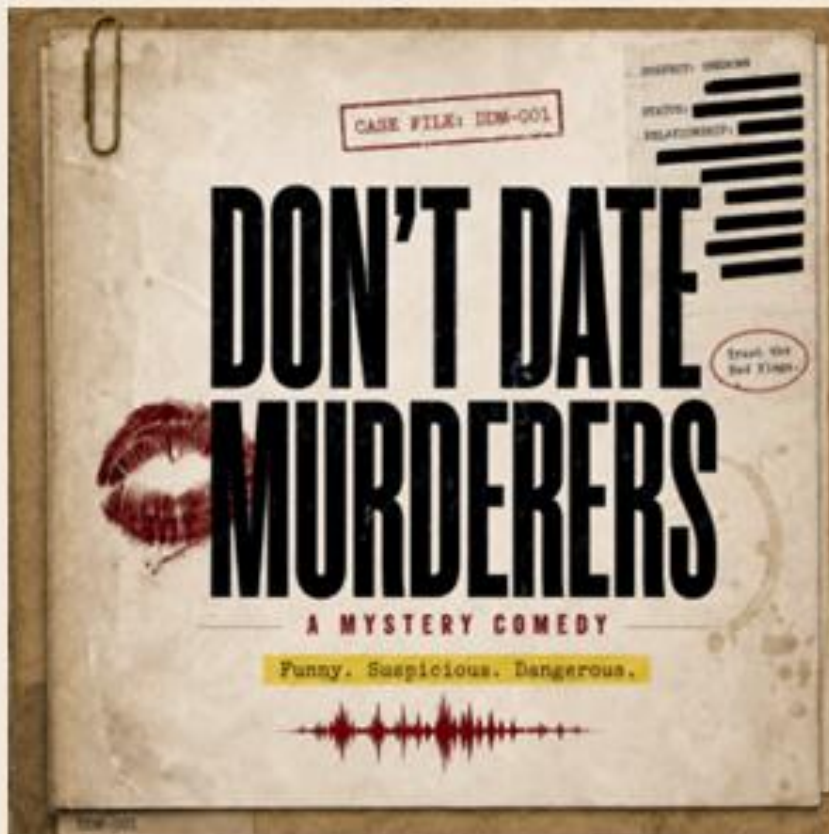
Thanks also to Liz Bury for her photo of her lovely apple tree.



And thank you to Roger Dawson for sending us his photo of the solar eclipse, taken when he was aboard the cruise ship 'Spirit of Adventure' off of the coast of Spain. Roger said that he took the photo during a period of totality of a little over 30 seconds. 'I have tried twice before to see "Totality" (1999 and 2013) but cloud cover prevented my seeing the event. Third time lucky!'

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Letter to the Editors

Dear Editors,

Didn't we get Lucky during the "Silly Season"

Well as the title says, weren't we were lucky that during the period of extended heat and lack of rain fall in the past few months, that there was no major outbreak of wild fires in our area as experienced in other parts of the country.

I hate to think what the outcome would have been as we are surrounded by trees, hedgerows, and fields full of crops with basically nothing to stop the spread of any fires. There would have been real damage to property and natural habitats and I have to say that we would have really suffered as the state of land management in our area is appalling without any natural fire breaks.

It's a subject that I have mentioned in past "blogs" about the total lack of land owners (not farmers who do a splendid job in maintaining their hedgerows) in not cutting back overhanging trees and hedge rows especially between Nags Head and Cherington which could go some way in providing some form of natural fire breaks. By the way it is the responsibility of the landowner to maintain hedges and trees which are adjacent to the road networks. Failure to do so can result in the Highways Department doing the job for you and then sending the bill, which in law you will have to pay. There seems to be a general malaise around our villages in general not just the worst stretch from Nags Head of not doing what should be done.

On reflection as we are going to see more of this type of weather in the coming summer months and years and that it may well be time for some of you to reflect and look around you and think about what could, and probably will happen.

On another note where have all the kids gone? For years as I looked across at the playing field in Rectory Lane during the summer months there were always balls being kicked around and the sound of children's voices enjoying themselves. Over the recent years there seems to be less and less and I wonder if this is due to the rise in use of mobile phones and the so called Social Media. I take this view from observations of people in street always on, or just looking and scrolling on their phones. Let me ask you this question, how often when you go to the pub, or out to dinner do you see people with their mobile phones on the table? What you need them for when having a convivial meal or a bit of banter in the pub is quite beyond me!

Just remember we are a herd species and need contact with our fellow man in order to survive and thrive.

Ian Hamilton

Memories of Alaska (continued)

We awoke the next morning in the port of Juneau - the capital of Alaska - and once again we were greeted by a drizzly, damp, grey scene.

But not for long.

To the astonishment of everyone, particularly the local inhabitants, the sun burst forth, the sky became a brilliant blue and off we went on yet another spectacular expedition sailing alongside glaciers sparkling in the sun. We passed another massive colony of sea-otters, contentment written all over them as they basked on rocks in the unexpected early autumn warmth of the sun. Juneau is pretty unique inasmuch as it is inaccessible by land. There is a highway going out in one direction and another going the other way but each of them only goes for a very few miles before the sign which says "End of Road". And it is. If you have to get anywhere you do it by boat or small plane. Juneau made its money out of gold and now makes its money - for a limited season - out of tourists who, like us, visit by ship. Amazingly enough, area-wise, it's the second largest capital city in the United States which is something that is not immediately apparent.

I'm going to find it quite difficult to put into words the magnificence and timelessness of our voyage today. A voyage to one of the most dramatic locations, we were told, in all of North America: the Tracy Arm Fjord. This is home to the Sawyer Glacier - the most spectacular of all glaciers. We sailed through sheer walls of tree-covered mountains rising to 7,000 feet with tumbling waterfalls crashing down into the clear green/blue water of the Fjord.

How do you best describe an iceberg - well, for a start, the tip is white and the rest is a wonderful blue. It's blue because it's so tightly compressed that no air bubbles are contained and it keeps its magic colour. I think some of the world's crystal designers could spend many useful hours looking at what nature's artistic hand can carve out on the smaller pieces of ice that have broken away from the larger ice-bergs. One had the feeling that, although we were travelling these waters in the 21st century, our predecessors of hundreds of years ago would have been looking at and commenting in much the same way. And - if the world as we know it is still in existence in 100 years time - nothing will have changed. It's a heavily protected area with severe penalties incurred if the laws of protection are broken. A comforting thought. To infiltrate the grandeur and silence of this masterpiece of nature would indeed be criminal.

Today, sadly, we leave Alaska, and our last day was spent in the third of what I would call frontier towns - in no way is this disrespectful, it's just that the three we've visited namely Sitka, Juneau and today Ketchikan - conjure up the image of what we see in American movies. The wooden shop fronts, bars, pedestrian wooden boardwalks, wooden houses built with the obligatory verandah (or porch) but sadly no John Wayne look-a-like riding hell for leather to the nearest saloon bar.

These three towns all hug the shoreline and certainly Ketchikan relies heavily on its salmon industry which has come back in a big way. Tourism, of course, plays an enormous part in the economy of all three towns and Ketchikan has a very thriving Arts Community, including being home to the world's largest collection of Totem poles.

Of course the tourist season is pretty short - basically May through September - but there are just about enough Alaskans living in and around these towns to keep going through the winter months. The climate is temperate but what they do get is an inordinate amount of rain. On average, 18 feet per year, hence the prolific forests on the slopes and the abundance of tumbling waterfalls.

We had been warned that we would probably have more rainy, damp days than sunny ones but we were extraordinarily lucky to have just one wet day which meant we had been able to enjoy the majestic scenery under the blue, sunny skies.

So - we didn't see any bears. We didn't see any puffins. What we did see - be it in the living world of mammals and birds or in the equally living mountains, glaciers, icebergs and fjords - certainly did not disappoint us. Alaska is a timeless, ageless, awe-inspiring State to visit and, after all, we only saw a minute fraction of it.

The largest State in the U.S.A. would take somewhat longer than a two week visit.

Ann Tarlton

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- Oct 11** **Tetbury Wool Fair:** A don't-miss occasion for all yarn and fibre lovers, featuring independent yarn makers, spinners and dyers. As well as craft stands there'll be live sheep and alpacas, and silk moths to see. 10am—4.30pm. Tickets:£6 am/£4 pm
- Oct 15** **How to talk to AI:** Award-winning technology writer Jamie Bartlett explores how we can stay in control of powerful AI tools like ChatGPT and Claude.7.30pm Tickets from £12
- Oct 18** **Reelin' in The Dan:** A tribute to Steely Dan's 1972-80 era. A night of nostalgia with big hits and steep cuts from Can't Buy a Thrill and others. 6pm Tickets from £26
- Oct 24** **Derailed Daytime House Music:** a treat for anyone of 25 and over who likes to dance and remember their youth and still be home for tea! DJ Danny Toft and Mike T and joined by Row Sax. 3-8pm. Tickets from £12
- Oct 25** **Around About Dusk:** The Bristol-based band blend musette, New Orleans jazz with old-time and European folk into an evening full of warmth and charm. 6.30. Tickets from £16
- Oct 31** **Red Robin's Winter Song:** Tutti Frutti give us the story of a Red Robin who stays behind as other animals prepare for winter to find new friendships and a special place to call home. Ideal for children over 3 and their families. 11am and 2pm. Tickets from £8.

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



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We've been sewing again.....

Having recently seen a plea from Gloucestershire Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust for more supplies of Patient Property Bags, a group of our members got together for a Bag Workshop at Cherington Village Hall. We had previously made some bags in 2022, which were delivered to Stroud and Dursley Hospitals.



These bags provide staff with something dignified to use to give personal belongings back to family members of a deceased patient, representing kindness and sympathy at a difficult time. This time we also made some syringe-driver bags from lighter washable fabric. Ten members had a fun session cutting, ironing and sewing and we now have about 40 bags to donate. We finished with a delicious Bring and Share lunch. Great team work and a very satisfying result!

The Book Group met at Amberley Café to discuss 'The Fortnight in September' by R C Sherriff, which was first printed in 1931. It tells the story of an ordinary lower middle class family from London anticipating, preparing for, travelling to, and then enjoying their modest summer holiday in Bognor Regis. This might not sound very exciting but without exception our readers loved the book: it is written in beautifully observed descriptive language, which enables the reader to experience the holiday alongside the family. It evoked lovely childhood memories of our own seaside holidays, enjoyed in simpler, quieter times. We wondered whether today's youngsters would have any interest in the book and what they would think of those seaside holidays, so very different from what is experienced now.



At our September meeting we watched a long awaited film telling the story of a famous surgeon, Denis Parson Burkitts, who was Cas Boddam-Whetham's father and had practised medicine in Africa. He became very concerned when he initially noticed several children in Africa had developed large swellings, often on their face but also body. His intense investigations revealed that the problem was caused by the children

developing a non-Hodgkins lymphoma and their life expectancy was very short as a result. The film maker was Enda O'Kelly McCann who had been treated for Burkitts Lymphoma in Ireland and who made the family film which we were all very privileged to watch. Denis Parson Burkitts was recognised for his wonderful work finding a treatment for this serious problem and that particular Lymphoma, to this day, is called Burkitts Lymphoma. It was a very moving film and when it ended there was a silence; none of the usual questions and chatter. Hilary delivered a very sensitive, thought provoking thank you to Cas, from a grateful group of WI members.

Looking ahead there is plenty to keep our members busy: the walkers will be exploring Malmesbury water meadows followed by lunch in Malmesbury; it's 'Yes Prime Minister' for the theatre group; there is a friendly Skittles match against Duntisbourne Abbot WI; bacon butties at the Community Café; and a weaving workshop at Cherington Village Hall.

Most importantly SAVE THE DATE..... 'Shirley's' AWI Village Quiz on Friday 6th November at 7 for 7.30pm in the Social Club. Regular competitors know the drill but if you haven't been before give it a try; it's a fun evening with a bar, raffle and a ploughman's supper included. This year profits will be donated to Sunflowers Suicide Support, Stonehouse.

At our October monthly meeting we will be celebrating our 96th birthday with a Harvest supper and a Quiz. 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.

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

AVENING SINGERS



We are looking for people to join us as we prepare to sing at autumn and Christmas events in the village, including the Christmas Carol Service.

No experience necessary, you don't need to read music and there are no auditions - just come along and give it a try!

We practice on Sunday afternoons at 4.00 in Avening.

CONTACT: Derrick (07762 702982) Jane (07812 137161)

Or email jwhaley1@aol.com for more information

Do Solar Panels and a Heat Pump Actually Work Together?

Solar panels and heat pumps get sold as a natural pair. In one important way, they pull against each other. Panels make about 80% of their electricity between March and September. A heat pump does most of its work in the colder half of the year. So you generate the most power exactly when the heat pump wants the least.

That doesn't rule the combination out. It just means you should go in with your eyes open. A heat pump runs on electricity, and a decent one gives you between three and four units of heat for every unit it draws. The better installs manage a bit more. That's why it can cost less to run than a gas boiler, even though electricity costs more per unit than gas. Your panels make some of that electricity for nothing, so for some of the year part of your heating comes free.

Winter is the problem. In June a typical array might make 15 units of electricity on a bright day. By December that can drop to three or four, and December is when the heat pump is flat out. Solar will carry a fair bit of your heating in spring and autumn. In deep winter it barely touches it. If someone tells you panels will run your heat pump all year, they're having you on.

So where does it actually stack up? Older homes off the gas grid are often the best fit, especially if you're currently on oil. Plenty of the Cotswold homes around Cherington and Avening are heated that way. Oil is dear and the price jumps around, so moving to a heat pump can save more there than it would in a house on mains gas. If you've already got solar and your old boiler is on its last legs, adding a heat pump is a sensible next step. What I'd be wary of is a single package selling you panels and a heat pump together on the promise of nearly free winter heating. The winter numbers don't back that up, and it's a lot to spend on a misunderstanding.

Worth knowing: the Boiler Upgrade Scheme currently pays £7,500 towards a heat pump, or £9,000 if your home is off the gas grid on oil or LPG. And there's no VAT on heat pumps until at least March 2027.

If you're thinking about it, get a proper heat loss survey from a heat pump installer before you commit to anything. That's the best way to know whether your home is ready.

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Letter from Roz Savage MP



October in Avening

October marks the return of Parliament after Conference Recess, and September brought some of the more demanding work of my time as an MP so far. I want to share a couple of things with residents in Avening.

The first is Cirencester Hospital. On 9 September I met Karin Smyth, the Minister for Health Secondary Care, specifically to press the case for the hospital's daytime operating theatre. Residents in Avening depend on Cirencester as their nearest hospital, and the prospect of permanent changes to its surgical services is not abstract here - it means longer journeys, greater pressure on rural transport, and real disruption for people who are already managing difficult health situations. I pressed the Minister for a clear timetable for the evaluation of the temporary suspension, for written assurances that residents will be properly consulted before any permanent decisions are made, and for confirmation that local MPs will be kept fully informed. The meeting was substantive. I will share more detail as the process develops, but the pressure from this constituency is being felt, and I will not stop pressing until residents have the certainty they deserve.

The second is mental health and community wellbeing. Across many visits and conversations this summer I have been struck by how much quiet struggle exists in rural communities - struggle that can be invisible from the outside, and that formal services often fail to reach. Villages like Avening can feel a long way from support, and the informal networks of neighbours and community that fill the gap deserve recognition. In September I was at Parliament Square for the Dementia World Alzheimer's Month launch, and I have been spending time with local neurological support groups to hear at first hand what people living with Parkinson's and dementia need from the health and care system. The gap between what those families need and what they currently receive is something I raise with NHS commissioners and ministers, and I will keep doing so.

As Parliament returns, both of these threads, the hospital and rural mental health provision, are at the forefront of my autumn priorities. If you have a concern to raise on any of them, or on anything else, please do come to one of my surgeries or get in touch directly. My team and I always do everything we can to help.

Warm wishes,

Roz Savage MP, South Cotswolds

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

Letter to the Editors



Dear Editors

It was great to spend a morning at Avening Community Café during Fairtrade Fortnight last month. I enjoyed good conversations about 'fairness' where our shopping choices are concerned while enjoying my mug of the delicious tasting Fairtrade coffee they serve. What better way to spend a Tuesday morning? Thank you for having me!

Jennie South

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To get more work experience, consider volunteering, for example, with Citizens Advice. This can **build skills and help your CV** stand out. Find opportunities on our website.

If money is tight, check if you are eligible for Universal Credit or the 'new style' Jobseeker's Allowance. Check what benefits you can get on the Citizens Advice website.

Finally, look after your wellbeing. Keep a routine, take breaks and talk to someone you trust. If you need extra support, contact Student Minds, Young Minds or Mind.

*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***



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Avening Parish Council



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

New Planning Applications

Parish Council Decisions made via email

26/02276/FUL: 11 Pound Hill. Proposed new entrance porch, fenestration changes including four new dormer windows, and erection of a garden room at the south-east corner. Decision: No objection.

26/02096/LBC and 26/02095/FUL: The Old Post Office, 5 Point Road. Erection of a first-floor rear extension; internal alterations to provide a ground-floor WC and utility room; fenestration alterations; replacement roof covering to the entrance hall; and associated drainage works. Decision: No objection.

26/02096/LBC and 26/02095/FUL: The Old Post Office, 5 Point Road. Erection of a two-storey rear extension; associated internal alterations to provide a ground-floor WC and utility room; replacement and amendment of fenestration; replacement roof covering; installation of four rooflights; associated drainage works; and removal of the external soil vent pipe. Decision: No objection.

26/02082/LBC: The Old Post Office, 5 Point Road. Roof repairs, installation of a rooflight, replacement window and soundproofing to the party wall. Decision: No objection.

CDC Planning Correspondence and Decisions

26/02319/TPO: 4 Old Hill. Works to two protected yew trees (*Taxus baccata*). T1: reduce long lateral branches extending into the neighbouring garden by 1.5 metres. T2: reduce lateral branches extending towards the owner's property by 1.5 metres. Decision: 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

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Puzzle Answers

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



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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	
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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Choosing the right garage isn't always easy, you want to know your vehicle is in safe hands, the work is being carried out properly, and you're getting honest advice from people you can trust.

At Auto bodytech, being RAC approved, means you can book with confidence, with honest pricing, quality workmanship, and exceptional customer service.



Honest
Pricing



Quality
Workmanship



Exceptional
Customer
Service

We combine main-dealer expertise with friendly, local service, helping keep your vehicle safe, reliable and ready for the road.



Servicing



MOTs



Diagnostics



Repairs

01453 832871

auto-bodytech.co.uk



Inchbrook Trading Estate, Bath Road, Nailsworth, GL5 5EY

Day Centre & Social Club

- Home cooked lunch plus teas/ coffees
- Group activities, craft sessions and companionship

Home Care Services

- Help with Personal & Domestic tasks, Sitting Service
- Meals on Wheels locally

Nursing Home

- General & Specialist Dementia Nursing
- Registered Nurses on duty 24 hours a day
- Free and Pre-arranged Respite Care available all year round



Horsfall House

For more information please contact us on **01453 731 227** for an Information Pack or go to: **www.horsfallhouse.co.uk**

Patron: HRH The Princess Royal, Minchinhampton Centre for the Elderly, Registered Charity No: 287479

