

The Villager



NAGS HEAD

THIS HAMLET, MADE UP IN 1914 OF 18 HOUSES,
SENT SEVENTEEN OF ITS YOUNG MEN
TO DEFEND OUR COUNTRY

SEVEN OF THESE GAVE THEIR LIVES.
THEY WERE:

JOHN BRIDGMAN	9 MAY 1915	AGED 19
JESSE ROBINS	22 APRIL 1916	AGED 26
FRANK LOCKE	23 JULY 1916	AGED 23
ALBERT AYRES	28 FEBRUARY 1917	AGED 29
CHARLES ELDRIDGE	31 AUGUST 1918	AGED 18
FREDERICK TOWNSEND	28 SEPTEMBER 1918	AGED 33
FREDERICK TANNER	14 OCTOBER 1918	AGED 18

ALSO:

PERCY PORTER	21 OCTOBER 1941	AGED 33
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LEST WE FORGET

A
Magazine
for
Avening,
Cherington
and Nags
Head



November 2026
editors@villagermag.online

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November 2026

Welcome to the November edition of The Villager. You may notice a few differences with the layout and photos this month. As Publisher is no longer being supported by Microsoft, we have used Word to produce this edition. Our apologies if quality of the production is not as good as usual, this is a fairly steep learning curve for us!

This month Remembrance Sunday falls on Sunday 8th, we thought our cover photo to be appropriate and poignant reminder of how many local men gave their lives for our country.

Next month we publish our bumper December/January issue. Do please send us details of events happening in either month, also any seasonal stories, photos, etc.

The Village Editors

The Villager Magazine

Editors Jane Archer (07812 137161), Derrick Pierce (07762 702982) and Gill Lelliott (07794 324682)

Advertising **editors@villagermag.online** Gwyneth Simpson 01453 836556

Deliveries Cas Boddam-Whetham 07900 472999

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Photographs in The Villager Magazine

Many thanks to Roger Lindley for this month's cover photo of the Memorial plaque at Nags Head. 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.

Contacts for the Villages

Avening, Amberley & Cherington Churches Parish Priest	Natalie Jennings	associate @minchchurch.org.uk
Avening & Cherington Churches Reader	Derrick Pierce	01453 835090
Avening Bell Tower Captain	Andrew Lelliott	07726 345516
Avening & Cherington Cricket Club	Secretary: Sarah Smith	07747 588188
Avening Church Churchwardens	Stephanie Hamilton	07796 981308
Avening Church Flower Team	Gill Adams	01453 833175
Avening Church PCC Treasurer	Diane Martin	dianemartin59 @gmail.com
Avening Cinema Club	Sue or Rima	sjeskins@gmail.com
Avening Community Café	Gill Adams	07826 291759
Avening Community Orchard	aveningcommunityorchard@gmail.com	
Avening Memorial Hall	David Bendall	01453 833479
Avening Oil Co-ordinator	Frances Lindley	fndly4@aol.com
Avening Parish Council Clerk	Shani Baker	07415 039234
Grumbolds Ash with Avening District Councillor	Tony Slater	07793 669930
Avening Playgroup	Angie Heslop	01453 832695
Avening Primary School	Jane Rushton	01453 833191
Avening Silver Band	John Hall	07825 405124

Avening Social Club	Derrick Ind	01453 835752
Avening Singers	Derrick Pierce	01453 835090
Avening WI	Liz Knowles	01453 833803
Cherington Village Hall	Sarah MacMahon	07443 629780 Sarahmacmahon10 @googlemail.com
Cherington Parish Council		Cheringtonparishcouncil @yahoo.co.uk
Cherington Churchwarden	Helen Di Mauro	07796 937268
Cherington Church Flower Team	Elizabeth Workman	01285 841294
Cherington Church Organist	Elizabeth Workman	01285 841294
Cherington Church PCC Secretary	Elizabeth Workman	01285 841294
Cherington Church PCC Treasurer	Ian Bamber	ldbamber @gmail.com
Friends of Avening School	Nicky Dill	01453 833191
Stroud Hospital	Reception	0300 421 8080
Tetbury Hospital		01666 502336

VILLAGE & AREA WEBSITES

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

Cherington Parish Council: www.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

Man in the Moon, O, Man in the Moon

Man in the moon, O, man in the moon,
 You light the evening sky,
 Rising up behind the hill,
 To watch the world go by.

Man in the moon, O, man in the moon,
 Your presence makes me smile.
 I often stand beneath the stars
 To watch you for a while.

Man in the moon, O, man in the moon,
 I love your smiling face,
 Beaming down upon the world;
 Nothing could take your place.

Man in the moon, O, man in the moon,
 Whether you're far or near,
 You sail serene across the night,
 Whenever skies are clear.

Man in the moon, O, man in the moon,
 When rainclouds cloak the skies,
 You 're there behind them, smiling still,
 From sunset to sunrise

Man in the moon, O, man in the moon,
 You roam the dark night sky,
 Your silver light illumines the night,
 Like a silent lullaby...

Gilian Bulmer-Davison

Dates for your Diary

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

Date	Event	Location	Time
Friday 6 th November	WI Quiz	Avening Social Club	7pm for 7.30pm start
Saturday 21 st November	The Magnificent AKs	Avening Memorial Hall	7.30pm
Tuesday 24 th November	Christmas Wreath Workshop	Cherington Village Hall	7 – 9pm
Wednesday 25 th November	Christmas Wreath Workshop	Cherington Village Hall	7 – 9pm
Friday 27 th November	Christmas Fayre (FOAS and Playgroup)	Avening Memorial Hall	afternoon



REMEMBRANCE SERVICE SUNDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 10.45AM HOLY CROSS CHURCH AVENING

*Followed by laying of wreaths at the war
memorial*

Avening and Cherington Churches



“Amberley... and Avening and Cherington... why were they put together?!” It’s a question I’m often asked, and I can understand why. Geographically speaking, it doesn’t seem the most obvious pairing! But as we find our feet as a benefice, we’re beginning to discover some of the opportunities that working together can bring.

Across the Church of England, congregations are smaller than they once were, and resources are increasingly stretched. Working together as a larger benefice has already brought considerable benefits, not least the support of the Benefice Office in Minchinhampton (and I’m enormously grateful to Vicki for all she does behind the scenes). It’s also been lovely to see people venturing beyond their usual church, worshipping in different places with new people.

I’m a pragmatist at heart, and believe we need to respond to the situation we find ourselves in rather than wishing things were different. But being realistic doesn’t mean giving up, or accepting that our churches must inevitably decline.

Jesus told his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few”(Matthew 9:37). Two thousand years later, those words still ring true. There is still work to be done, and God still calls us to serve our communities and share his good news. But we need to find sustainable ways of doing so, sharing the work rather than exhausting ourselves in the process.

It’s with this in mind that some of our churches are reviewing their Sunday service times. Research and experience across the Church of England recognise that congregations benefit from the continuity and presence of a familiar church leader. We want each of our churches to remain a place where relationships flourish, people feel known and cared for, and connection with the wider community are strong. Rethinking when we worship is one way of helping to make that possible, creating greater opportunities for continuity in worship and pastoral care across our benefice.

I know change isn’t always easy, particularly when it affects something as familiar as Sunday worship. But being part of a benefice means thinking not only about what suits our own congregation, but what will help all our churches flourish. Our PCCs will be discussing the proposals, following which I’ll be able to share more details. There will also be opportunities for you to share your views before any changes are made, which would initially be trialled from January 2027.

My hope is that we can approach these conversations not with anxiety about what we might lose, but with curiosity about what we might gain. After all, we are not simply individual churches trying to survive, but “one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another” (Romans 12:5).

Revd Natalie Jennings

Church Services

	Avening	Cherington
Sunday 1st November	10am All Souls' Service	6pm School Bangers: Hymns from your childhood and the stories behind them
Sunday 8 th November	10.45am Remembrance Service	
Sunday 15th November		10am Holy Communion
Sunday 22nd November	10am Holy Communion	
Sunday 29 th November	10am Holy Communion	
Sunday 6 th December	10am Morning Prayer	5pm Christingle Service

Church Floodlighting



The church was floodlit on the following days:

9 Oct Carol Connor, 80th birthday celebration. For a very special mum, with much love from Tracey.

19 Oct The Feast of St Luke – for all doctors and carers, from Elizabeth Buchanan.

24 Oct In loving memory of Tim David. Deeply loved and missed, forever in our hearts. Xxx

31 Oct In loving memory of our darling son Leon Cleaver- Toop. On what would have been your sweet 16th birthday! Always loved and always remembered. Xxx

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

A new national planning scheme has been imposed by the government from 31 October 2026, and every local planning authority in England will operate under a national scheme of delegation. This will replace locally determined rules governing which planning applications are referred to Planning Committee and which are decided by officers.

What this means for councillors and the public: Member call-in powers and automatic referrals based on the number of objections will be removed. Referral to committee will therefore become exceptional and will require agreement between the nominated officer and the member. If they do not agree, the application will be decided by officers alone. Written comments submitted during the standard consultation period will remain important and residents should engage with councillors early and raise material planning concerns before an application reaches the decision stage. In my view, this is another nail in the coffin of local democracy. The irony is that, while the Government intends to devolve District Council powers, this change moves in the opposite direction by replacing local safeguards with a rigid national policy.

Cotswold District Council (CDC) have appointed a new (temporary) senior officer to make significant improvements to the Enforcement team and reduce the backlog of outstanding cases – I will be monitoring progress closely.

At **Overview & Scrutiny (O&S)** we called in the Ubico (dustbins and waste collection) management to review their service. I raised concerns about the general sloppiness and uncaring attitude as the crews often leave dropped rubbish and leave the emptied bins anywhere. There is ongoing training of the crews, together with in-cab and supervisory monitoring, so hopefully this will improve over time – let me know if you see otherwise. There are ongoing concerns about the impact of diesel prices – if they remain high there will be a financial hit to CDC of around £200k this financial year.

Also at O&S we had an interesting review of how AI is being adopted at CDC. Among our local peer councils we are further ahead in pilot schemes to understand how work can be done more effectively and efficiently using the technology. This must be balanced against the need for accuracy, security, human oversight, and cost.

Councillor Tony Slater

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



Please take care in our churchyard

Recent ground movement has caused large cracks, holes and uneven surfaces to develop in parts of the churchyard. We are continuing to monitor the situation and working to make the area safe as soon as conditions allow.

For your safety please:



Keep to the footpaths

The longer grass can conceal uneven ground.



Supervise children at all times

Please help keep younger visitors safe.



We have also become aware of children playing on and around graves, and on the churchyard boundary wall next to the school.

For everyone's safety, children must not climb or play on the boundary walls, gravestones or memorials. As well as posing a risk of injury, these are important places of remembrance which deserve to be treated with care and respect.

AVENING CHURCH GUIDE

For information about the architecture and history of Holy Cross church in Avening scanning the QR code with your smartphone camera or other device will reveal a guide to the church



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.

Letter from the Chairman of Avening Parish Council



Avening Parish Council: I announced in last month's edition that we have a new member joining the Parish Council team – Emma Maskell. Emma moved to Gloucestershire some 12 years ago for work and now calls Avening her home. She is currently Pro Vice-Chancellor (Student Experience) at Norland University of Early Childhood. Emma previously worked across higher education and the Civil Service. Away from work Emma enjoys walking in the countryside with her cocker spaniel. Emmas contact details will be available on the Parish website.

Local Government Reorganisation: New National Planning Scheme would refer you to Tony Slaters report in this publication. Tony highlights seemingly contrary decisions on the direction the reorganisation is taking; to the detriment of local Parish Council shavng their views considered.

Seasonal Reminders: - Road and Pavement Safety in Avening Shorter days and longer nights are becoming apparent, and a few mild frosts have already been experienced; so, preparation for the late Autumn and Winter months ahead should be given some consideration. **Grit bins** - are dotted around the village, are filled only once each year, due to cost savings by CDC and Highways. With this in mind please use sparingly when needed; a little can go a long way especially when given enough time to react with the ice. **Pavements** – If you have a hedge which overhangs either a road or pavement, now is the time to undertake some serious pruning. Please try to prune back to allow for the space needed for next year's growth to avoid it becoming an annual problem for pedestrians or drivers.

ROADS & PARKING: worth repeating last month's plea as the evenings draw in. 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.

Village Fete?: The subject and discussion around a village fete, to supplement the Church fete (which may become a bi-annual event) is still on the agenda at this and upcoming parish meetings. The village needs someone to step forward to take on the role of organiser. The Parish Council is willing to lend its support in some way or other; but we need it to be organised independently of the council.

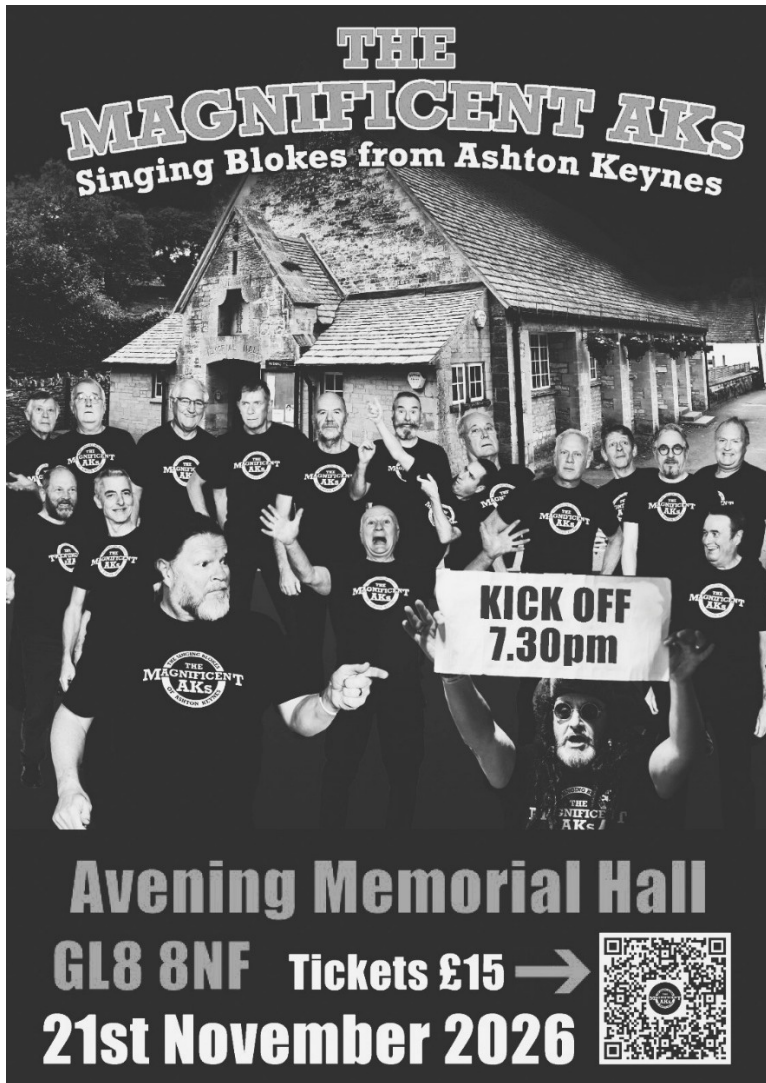
Kind regards to everyone.

Patrick

Patrick Mulligan

Chairman, Avening Parish Council. Tel 07713 068436

**THE
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7.30pm**

Avening Memorial Hall
GL8 8NF Tickets £15 →
21st November 2026



This Magnificent machine of men will venture north west from north north Wiltshire to the county of Gloucestershire to sing, delight and entertain the people of Avening. Expect to chuckle, gasp and wonder at a diverse programme of silly, serious manly a Capella songs by this oddball bunch of 25-odd singers. There will be fun for all the family.

Alan Garlick



Avening School

A month of many visitors

It has been such a busy term here at Avening School. Before half term, we had a visit from Anton from the local foodbank who talked about the excellent and essential work that the foodbank does. For this year's Harvest festival, pupils were asked to add a touch of green to their uniform in exchange for a financial donation for the foodbank. We were joined by Reverend Natalie, who led us in prayer and appreciation for the food we have.

We also had our annual visit from Harold the Giraffe who taught each class about keeping healthy both physically and mentally. The Owls class (y5/6) were also paid a visit by local MP, Roz Savage, who came to talk to them about her role and also how she found her way into politics. The class had plenty of questions!

The Kestrels (y1/2) and Hawks (y3/4) classes recently took part in a Lego Coding Challenge, and the Kestrels class also attended an online event at the Henley Book Festival, where they listened to author and poet Joseph Coelho discuss his new book *Children of the Throne*.

Our school opened its doors to prospective new families on the 9th October for the first of our two open mornings. Visitors were given guided tours by our very enthusiastic school councillors, and treated to coffee and cake afterwards. Our next open morning is Thursday 5th November – 9- 12pm. No need to book in advance.

Looking ahead to next term, the whole school will be commemorating Remembrance Day with a service led by Reverend Natalie. This will be followed by a moment of reflection and the laying of crosses to remember those who gave their lives in the World Wars and subsequent conflicts.

There are hockey and football festivals coming up and after school clubs will continue up until the Christmas holidays. Pupils will be asked to wear odd socks to mark anti-bullying week where the focus this year is Speak Out, Stay Safe!

As we look forward to Christmas, the KS2 pupils will be rehearsing for their carol concert while Reception and KS1 will prepare for their Christmas production. Following the success of their Halloween discos, FOAS will be holding their annual Christmas Fair on Friday 27th November.

If you have a pre-school child/grandchild, come along to our Fledgling outdoor sessions in the school garden every Friday 2-3pm. Contact the school office for more details.

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

Alex Adcock

Avening Primary School Open Mornings

Friday 9 October 2026
Thursday 5 November 2026
9.15 am – 12 noon

A great opportunity to come along to find out exactly how our school works and see us in action. There will be special guided tours given by members of our School Council. Coffee and homemade cake, too!
Everyone welcome. No need to book.

Ofsted, 2026, said: *Parents and carers are overwhelmingly positive about the school. They recognise that staff really get to know their children well, meaning that pupils are kept safe and well cared for.*

One parent expressed the view shared by many that Avening is 'a brilliant school with the children at its absolute core'

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Avening Playgroup

In last month's article, I mentioned that our AGM was due to take place on Wednesday 7th October in the playgroup building. A big thank you to those members and parents who did turn up, it is very much appreciated. Although, we managed to recruit two new members, we unfortunately do not currently have a full committee in place. We are still actively recruiting new members and have had some more interest, but if we are unable to meet the requirements for having a properly constituted committee, the provision will be closed! You do not have to be a parent of a child at the setting to be a committee member. You will need to complete an EY2 form (for joining an Ofsted-registered childcare organisation) as well as a DBS form and will be expected to attend termly meetings. If you think you may be able to help, please contact the playgroup.

Apart from the various reports we are required to share during an AGM, the evening proved to be quite fruitful, with many ideas for fundraising.

Recently, we have been looking at:

Colours: the children mixed different paints together to see what colour they made; they matched different coloured Duplo bricks and pompoms; explored different coloured water using pipettes and test tubes: coloured rainbows and did some finger painting.



Autumn: We went for an Autumn Walk around the park and collected lots of leaves; explored conkers, cones, pumpkins and leaves on the tuff tray; matched the quantity of conkers to a number; dipped conkers into paint and rolled them along paper placed into a tray.



The playgroup will once again be joining FOAS for the Christmas Fayre, which is being held on Friday 27th November at the Memorial Hall. The playgroup will be organising the Raffle, Tombola and Santa's Grotto. Our volunteers will be making door to door collections in the week before. Alternatively, you can drop any items

off at the playgroup beforehand. We are looking for donations of bottles, chocolates, biscuits and raffle prizes. Unfortunately, we cannot accept any bric-a-brac items.

If you are looking for a playgroup space for your child, please call Angie on 01453 832695 or email at aveningplaygroup@gmail.com to arrange a visit to see our lovely setting with its great outdoor area. Our current opening hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9.00-3.00.

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Avening Community Café

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Every Tuesday morning in the Social Club from 9am – 12 noon

Mobile Post Office on site from 9.30 – 11.30am

Many thanks to all those who supported our MacMillan coffee morning in September – we raised £120 for this charity. A really good effort!

We were very pleased to welcome back Jennie South during Fairtrade fortnight who set up a display of Fairtrade products, such as coffee, chocolate, tea and sugar and explained how Fairtrade supports farmers and workers.

A reminder that we will be having another litter pick on Tuesday 10th November, so you are welcome to join in for about an hour from 9:30 and enjoy a free hot drink afterwards. Hi Vis vests, gloves and bags will be provided.

Come along on 17th November and help us celebrate the Café's 8th birthday with a glass of bubbly and delicious birthday cakes.

Advance notice - 8th Dec - Christmas Wreath making with Wendy.



November Dates

3rd Theme: Bonfire Night, Art with Mark (£3 each, all materials supplied)

10th Café Litter Pick (from 9:30)

17th CAFÉ 8th BIRTHDAY. Art with Mark (£3 each, all materials supplied), Hope Clinic in lounge

24th Guideposts: Dementia Awareness Workshop (WI bacon butties!)

John Hetterley

For Avening Community Cafe



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Long Live the Annual Church Fete!

There has been some concern, not least from the Parish Council, that there are no plans to run the Church Fete next year. Whilst it is understandable that a dwindling and aging congregation is now struggling to organise a fete every year, they could find it even more difficult to sustain it if left until 2028. Surely we cannot lose the Church Fete!

Why the concern? Well the fete is an ideal opportunity for the Avening community to come together, and the traditional nature of the fete means that villagers of all ages can benefit from an afternoon of entertainment that does not require headphones or staring at a screen. Besides, we would never hear the end of it from Cherington, who organise an excellent fete every year (even if most of the cakes have gone by the time it opens).



So the church will need some extra support. We already have many of the constituents of a successful fete: the Silver Band, the Singers, and the WI for starters. Then there are our other activities which could also pitch in: the Primary School, the Playgroup,

the Community Cafe and Social Club. Not to mention Dave the Ice Cream Man, and hopefully Nick the Hamburger King. Of course, many of those who give much of their time to these activities already help out at all Avening functions, and have done so for very many years, so I'm sure that they would appreciate some new blood to hand over to.

Mention of Avening often brings the response "Ah, where they have the Duck Race" as it has been such a significant feature of the fete for at least thirty years. (So much for thousand-year-old Pig Face Day!) It's been an excellent fundraiser too. How do we sustain that, now that the stream has all but dried up? I'm not clear whether that's because of climate change or because our source of water has been stolen, in which case it would be useful if we could get it back. If all else fails, perhaps we could borrow the golf club's water bowser for the afternoon, opening the floodgates for each race...



It is certainly the traditional feel of the fete which has its universal appeal, changed so little over the years that it could be 1956, with Miss Marple turning up in a Morris Minor. Our youngsters seem to appreciate it, and it's good to see some of them running the games like the

coconut shy. To put my money where my mouth is, I'll happily organise a golf chipping competition next year, assuming a couple of teenagers will run it for a few bob. What else? Pony rides? We had a very successful competition between Emma the Hairdresser and the sheep shearers once, some lads volunteered for serious haircuts. And yes, we definitely need a Dog Show again: it's a lot of fun and a guaranteed crowd puller, not least because we have so potential entrants in the village.

Often someone was called upon to officially open the fete (which at least meant that the cakes hadn't all gone, not that our WI would stoop to such a thing. Are they the best WI in the country? Probably.)

Admiral Sir Tim Laurence came over from Gatcombe one year and made a very impressive speech. And who remembers Tina Hobley, best known as the feisty Ward Sister in Holby City at the time? She lived in the



Shoe Box in the High Street for a while. (And that's the Gardening guru Tony Russell, who lived in Nag's Head, supporting her). Fortunately we do have some celebrities in the village who could be called upon...

I've been so concerned at the potential loss of the fete that I've contacted Reverend Natalie and pestered some of the parishioners, so if you also feel that we need to retain an annual Church Fete and are prepared to give it your support in one form or another, please let them know.

Roger Lindley



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AVENINGCINEMA CLUB



Wednesday 25th November 2026



Midwinter Break

Doors open 7pm. Film starts 7.30pm

Interval halfway

Please feel free to bring refreshments

AVENING MEMORIAL HALL

Admission £7

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

Contact us at aveningcinemaclub@gmail.com

Christmas
WREATH
MAKING

Cherington Village Hall
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TUESDAY 24TH NOVEMBER

WEDNESDAY 25TH NOVEMBER

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Letter to the Editors

Thanks for a great publication from such a small team.

Just a suggestion your readers might like: As an antidote to the regular, usually thoroughly depressing, news broadcast by the mainstream, I get a weekly email from the '**Fix The News**', see their site , fixthenews.com

An Australian outfit, they broadcast uplifting news items, equally important, that often escape the public eye. It is a little highlight of my week, every single time. The site is free, although subscribe if you like, and they aren't pushy.

From them: *Fix The News is an independent, subscriber-supported publication. Each week we find good news from around the world. Not dogs and barbershops, but stories of large-scale progress, in public health, conservation, economic development, clean energy, human rights, and science. Most news media ignores this stuff, because death, disaster and division get more attention. Progress by contrast, is slow, hard to report, and doesn't get as many clicks. That's a problem, because when we only see what's broken we lose sight of what works, and it becomes easier to give in to despair. There are thousands of organisations out there telling you what's going wrong. We're one of the few that report on what's going right.*

Nicholas Winkfield

ROSSINI
Overture:
The Thieving Magpie

BRUCH
Violin Concerto No.1
Soloist: **Andrew Samarasekara**

SHOSTAKOVICH
Symphony No. 10

Conductor: Jonathan Trim
Guest conductor: Samuel Gawthorne
Leader: John Ayre

November 21st 2026
7.30pm at Holy Trinity Church
Stroud, GL5 2HX

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OR from orchestra members, OR on the door on the night.

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Avening WI

For the past couple of years, in support of the campaign Clean Rivers for People and Wildlife, AWI has taken part in the Great UK Water Blitz over one weekend in September. As there was no water in the stream in the village, Liz and Helen tested the stream along Nags Head Lane, below Cherington Lake. The results were excellent with very low rates of phosphates and nitrates. The results have been uploaded on the Freshwater Watch website. If you are interested to see a map of the results across the country it can be found at www.freshwaterwatch.org

A small group took part in a Weaving Workshop where Rebecca Connolly of Stroud Textiles demonstrated weaving on a loom. Members then tried their hand at weaving with paper as an introduction to weaving skills. This might be followed up with future workshops.



One team entered the new GFWI Grand Jigsaw Competition and our Skittlers were back in action in a friendly match against Duntisbourne Abbott WI, which they narrowly lost.

A group of 10 of us went to the Barn Theatre in Cirencester to see a version of Yes, Prime Minister. Gwyneth's report summed it up: 'It was really good and so funny. If you remember when it was on the TV with Nigel Hawthorne as Sir Humphrey, he gave elaborate verbiage, bureaucratic evasion and patronising politeness in his lengthy speeches. Well, there was plenty of that and the actors were all brilliant. Poor Bernard, the PM's personal private secretary, was tasked with finding 3 female escorts from Soho to entertain the US Secretary of State who was a guest at Chequers and chaos ensued from then on!' We shall be going to see 'The King's Speech' at The Barn in early November.

The next walk we have planned will be a river meadow walk in Malmesbury followed by lunch at the Summer Café. Our group walking the Wysis Way completed stage three through The Forest of Dean from near Cinderford to Mitcheldean. It was a beautiful day with lovely views and varied scenery. We usually have dogs with us and many of the stiles along the route are not 'dog friendly' resulting in lots of coaxing to get them jumping over or squeezing through tiny gaps. One young dog was baffled by what he should do but by the end of the walk he had just about worked it out. Our next stage will involve the steep climb up May Hill!

Shirley Hand and her daughter, Alison, will be running another Quiz for us at the Social Club on Friday 6th November 7 for 7.30 start. Teams of 4, £6 per head to include a light Ploughman's supper and there will be a bar. No need to book, just turn up for a fun evening. Proceeds will be donated to Sunflowers Suicide Support, Stonehouse.

At the October monthly meeting we celebrated our 96th birthday with a Harvest Supper, where our committee served of a variety of soups with apple cakes to follow. We worked in pairs on a food quiz compiled by Hilary. Do you know what foodstuff was banned in Singapore due to littering implications? The Ding Bats section had us scratching our heads!



At our November meeting Nick Brunger will be entertaining us with 'Strange Tales' This will be followed by our AGM. Visitors are always welcome to our meetings which are held on the second Thursday of the month at 7.30 in the Memorial Hall.

We have arranged a 2027 Purcell Club Tour of Westminster Abbey following requests to repeat this amazing trip last done in 2024. It is on Saturday June 19th 2027 leaving Avening at 12.30 pm. This trip is open to all and if you would like to know more please contact Helen.

For further information please contact our secretary Helen at aveningwi@gmail.com or look at our Facebook page.

Bridget Seward

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**



Letter from Roz Savage MP

November in Avening is when the year settles and the things that have been building through the warmer months come into sharper focus. I want to use this column to share some of the things that have been on my mind this autumn.

The first is farming and food security. The land around Avening is working countryside, and the people who farm it are navigating one of the most difficult transitions the industry has faced in a generation. The shift away from the old subsidy regime, rising input costs, the uncertainty of planning long-term investment under shifting policy conditions - these are not abstract concerns. They are the daily reality for farmers across this part of the Cotswolds, and I hear about them consistently. I hold the Vice-Chairship of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on UK Food Security, and this autumn I have been using that role to press ministers on what a credible food security strategy actually looks like for constituencies like ours. Too often the debate in Westminster treats food production and nature recovery as being in tension. The farmers I speak to in this constituency do not see it that way - they understand that a resilient food system and a healthy natural environment depend on each other - and I take that view into every conversation I have in Parliament.

The second is flooding. October brought Flood Action Week, and I used it to press for faster progress on the flood resilience commitments made to communities across South Cotswolds. The streams and watercourses that run through the landscape around Avening feed into the Bristol Avon system, and they are under real pressure when rainfall is sustained. Investment in resilience upstream protects communities downstream, and the case for action in this area is one I will keep making. If you have been affected by flooding near Avening and have not yet been in touch with my office, please do; the evidence residents provide, however small it may seem, strengthens the case I make to the Environment Agency and other agencies.

After Flood Action Week, I held the annual Flood Meeting, which gave residents a chance to hear from water company representatives, councilors and myself on what is being done to protect their communities against flooding. Seeing so many residents from across the South Cotswolds come and share their experiences, raise their concerns and press key figures is exactly why I called the meeting in the first place. I hope you were able to make it, or that there was representation from the area that you care most about. If you have a concern to raise or simply want to say hello, please do come to one of my surgeries or get in touch.

Warm wishes,

Roz Savage MP, South Cotswolds

Tel: 01285 286 160 | roz.savage.mp@parliament.uk | www.rozsavagemp.uk



Friends of Avening School

Friends of Avening School WIN Tesco Grant! You may remember FOAS were selected for the Tesco Stronger Starts grant programme earlier this year, where our Forest School project appeared in the blue token voting columns of the Tetbury Tesco store. We're delighted to report that our Seed-to-Plate project took 2nd place, and we've been awarded an incredible £1000 prize. The project aims to teach the children of Avening school where food comes from by planting, nurturing and harvesting. Thank you so much to Rhi who helped us apply for the scheme, and to everyone who voted for FOAS with your blue tokens. We're so grateful for the support!

Christmas Wreath Workshops - Get into the festive spirit by creating your own beautiful, sustainable wreath at our fun and relaxing workshop! 7pm to 9pm at Cherington Village Hall, £42 per person.

Choose from one of two dates: Tuesday 24th November or Wednesday 25th November Book online at <https://www.foas.org.uk/shop>

All proceeds go to supporting Friends of Avening School

Email us at foasavening@gmail.com | www.foas.org.uk

Longfield Hospice



Volunteers with vans needed for the Longfield Christmas Treecycle Appeal Longfield Community Hospice is asking local people to help with their annual 'Treecycling' campaign, in partnership with charity JustHelping.

Each year, around 200 volunteers enjoy a fun and physical day out collecting thousands of real Christmas trees from homes across Gloucestershire, which are then recycled in return for voluntary donations to Longfield Hospice. Last year, the campaign - run in partnership with national organisation JustHelping - saw more than 4,600 real trees recycled, raising more than £76,000 from donations for local hospice care.

The 2027 tree collections will take place from Sunday 10th – Sunday 17th January and whether you are an individual, group of friends, work or community team, please do get in touch to find out ways to volunteer. Longfield are particularly looking for volunteers with vans and trucks this year. The charity is also keen to hear from companies willing to sponsor a van and fuel or provide volunteers and vans. Volunteers can find out more and register their interest on the Get Involved section of the Longfield Community Hospice website. <https://longfield.org.uk/volunteers-with-vans/>



Nailsworth Mills Bowling Club

Avening players were again well represented at the Nailsworth Mills Bowling Club presentation evening held at Avening Social Club.



The compilation photo shows (L -R) Mandy Slater - Ladies Handicap Singles champion; Tony Slater – Men’s Handicap Singles & Drawn Pairs; Bob Jennings - Men’s Champion; Tom Beardsell – Men’s Nominated Pairs (with Richard Fillis, who also won the Mixed Pairs); Phil Bostock – Friday Triples. Presented by our Chairman Paul Stevens.

The season may have finished but there is a comprehensive entertainment schedule through the winter at the clubhouse, continuing with cash Bingo on Friday 13th November 6:30pm – guests and non-members are always welcome (see our Facebook and website for details).

Tony Slater

Puzzle Corner

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

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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 towards the end of the magazine



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“Opera for everyone”: Candlelit Dido and Aeneas comes to Holy Trinity, Minchinhampton

A semi-staged performance by La Mattina Chamber Choir with period-instrument ensemble La Notte

Holy Trinity Church, Minchinhampton – 7pm Saturday 14th November 2026

Tickets £20, under 18s free – www.ticketsource.com/la-mattina and on the door

What a Battery Does in Winter

Most people think of a home battery as a box for saving sunshine. In summer, that's mostly what it is. In winter, a good one has a second job.

By now, panels on a typical roof might make a few units on a bright day. Whatever you don't use at the time still goes into the battery for the evening. But it's often less than a household gets through between teatime and bedtime. Rely on the sun alone and the battery spends a lot of the winter half empty.

So a well set-up battery also tops up from the grid overnight, when electricity is cheap. Some tariffs charge under 15p a unit in the small hours, and a few go as low as around 7p. The battery then covers the evening, when the oven's on and it's dark by half four across the south Cotswolds. VAT came off electricity bills on 1 October, and the average price-capped unit now costs 26.32p. Allow for a little lost in storage and every unit you move from night to evening saves roughly 10p to 18p. If your battery covers five units of evening use a day, that's about £175 to £330 a year.

A battery can do this with no panels at all. And if you're weighing up solar, it means a battery earns its keep in winter as well as summer. Some tariffs also pay over 20p a unit for power you send back between 4pm and 7pm. Letting the battery's software time that for you is what installers mean by "intelligent" exporting.

There are catches. You need a tariff with a cheap overnight rate, and the daytime rate on those is often higher than on a standard tariff. A smaller standalone battery can be fitted for around £2,000, but bigger ones cost more. How quickly it pays back depends on how much you use in the evening. If your evenings are quiet, a battery has little to do. Tariffs change too. Right now, Octopus has closed its most generous smart battery tariff to most new customers because wholesale prices are so jumpy.

Getting quotes? Ask two things. Can the battery charge from the grid as well as the panels? And which smart tariffs does it work with? If you already have a battery, check it isn't still set to charge only from the sun. It's a five-minute job in the app.

Llewellyn Kinch – Director – MakeMyHouseGreen.com

TONY'S CHARITY QUIZ NIGHTS

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NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS AT THE GOODS SHED



- November 5 Opera on Screen – La Bohème:** The Royal Opera House's production of Puccini's heartbreaking classic of young love. It tells the story of a captivating romance set against 19th century Paris. Tickets from £13.50. 7pm
- November 14 William Howard and the Carducci Quartet:** We welcome back very special friends of the Goods Shed for an evening of chamber music pairing William Howard's piano with the Carducci Quartet playing Haydn, Schumann and Brahms. Tickets from £30. 7.30pm
- November 21 Music for Miniatures:** Magical musical concerts designed to inspire and connect young children to live music. For 45 minutes children from 0-4 and their carers can dance to their hearts content! Tickets from £6. 10.30am.
- November 21 Remi Harris Hot Club:** Guitarist Remi Harris teams up with bassist Tom Moore and rhythm guitarist Chris Nesbitt for an exhilarating evening of Gypsy Jazz and Blues. Tickets from £19. 7.30
- November 23 Lino Cut Christmas card workshop:** Design carve and print your own festive print and leave with 20 hand-printed cards and tags. No experience needed and materials are included. £40 per workshop (also Nov 30) 6.30pm
- November 26 Photography Network Launch:** Featuring micro-talks from exhibiting photographers and an introduction to GPN this is suitable for professionals, keen amateurs and photography fans. Free. 7pm

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

www.tetburygoodshed.co.uk

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‘Memorials to the Missing’ returns to Holy Trinity, Minchinhampton

The moving story of the Gloucestershire man who changed the way our war dead are remembered.

Sunday 8th November 6.30pm. Holy Trinity, Bell Lane, Minchinhampton, GL6 9BP

Tickets £12 from Minchinhampton Post Office and on the door. All proceeds to Help for Heroes.

THE STORY of one Gloucestershire man’s determination to ensure that those killed or missing in the First World War would never be forgotten is to be brought back to life at Holy Trinity Church, Minchinhampton, this Remembrance season.

“Four years ago, eight friends staged a rehearsed reading of Memorials to the Missing at Holy Trinity” says John Mounsey, the director.” The performance was so warmly received, with many people asking for it to be repeated, that the group is bringing it back as part of a wider programme of events marking Remembrance Sunday.”

Originally written for BBC Radio 4, Stephen Wyatt’s award-winning play dramatises the struggle of Major-General Sir Fabian Ware, who is buried at Amberley, to establish what became the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.



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Puzzle Answers

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



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Avening Parish Council



Grant Application Deadline: Apply for the 2027/28 Parish Council Grants Deadline: Friday, 27 November 2026
How to apply: Download the form from the Parish Council website, or email the Clerk directly to request one. Important: Please ensure all applications are submitted before the deadline to be considered.

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

New Planning Applications

26/02789/FUL 24 Sandford Leaze - Erection of a single storey rear/side infill extension to create kitchen, W/C and dining room. Extension to dormers front and rear. – Approved

26/02577/FUL Sunground Garages - Installation of 1.1 metre high fall protection fencing. -Approved

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.

26/02846/TCONR The Old Quarries - T40 - Tulip tree - fell and remove stump. - Approved
26/02863/TCONR 26/02863/TCONRT1 Dawn Redwood - Prune canopy to manage property clearance and rebalance asymmetrical growth to the east – Approved

Dog Fouling: If you witness dog fouling that is not picked up by the owner, please report it using the link below. <https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/environment/litter-street-cleaning-and-dog-fouling/>

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



MARY AND JOSEPH NEED YOUR HELP!

Mary and Joseph will be travelling
around Avening during Advent.
Can you give them a home for a night?



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Revd Natalie at
associate@minchchurch.org.uk
to find out more about our
Posada

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 07726345516
Community Café	Tuesday	9.00am-noon	Social Club	Gill Adams 07826291759
Mobile Post Office	Tuesday	9.30-11.30am	o/s Social Club	
Cherington PC	Tuesday bi-monthly	6.00pm	Cherington Village Hall	
Line Dancing	Tuesday	8.00-9.30pm	Social Club	Social Club 01453 833760
Avening PC	2 nd 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 WI	2 nd 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	7.30pm	Social Club	
KNEAD Mobile Bakery	Last Saturday each month	9.45-10.30am	o/s Memorial Hall	
Charity Quiz	1 st Saturday each month	8.00pm	The Bell	
Avening Singers	Sunday	4.00pm	tba	Derrick Pierce 01453 835090



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