

The Villager

A Magazine for Avening,
Cherington and Nags Head



February 2023

editors@villagermag.online



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February 2023

Welcome to the first edition of the Villager of 2023. We hope that everyone had a very happy Christmas and New Year, enjoying the freedom to fully celebrate the festival after all the sad restrictions of the Covid years.

As always, we are so grateful for the contributions we receive from our readers. We are completely dependent on these to achieve our aim to create an informative and entertaining magazine - such as the fascinating 'Diaries for Queen Matilda', the first of which appears in this edition.

Occasionally, of course, we do have letters critical of items that have appeared. Recently all the editors individually received such a letter from someone who had taken great offence at the tone of several articles written by one of our regular contributors. Whilst we are very sorry that this should have been the case, we would like to point out that what we print does not signify our personal agreement with opinions expressed by our contributors. So long as these pieces are not defamatory or in some way cross legal lines, we adhere to the general principle of the right of readers to express views freely, however unpalatable these views may be to some others. However, if you feel strongly about something that has appeared, please do feel to express this in a letter, which can be included in Letters to the Editor. Contact details below.

Finally, we hope that what you see in this edition of the Villager will bring pleasure, not irritation or offence.

The Villager Editors

The Villager Magazine

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Photographs in The Villager Magazine

Many thanks to **Patrick Mulligan** for the photograph on the front cover, showing the refurbished Village sign.

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.

Winter in our Villages



Many thanks to
Kelly Francis,
Hazel Redding,
Tony Slater and
Kieran Archer
for these
photos.



Regular Activities in the Villages

Items struck through are temporarily suspended. Would organisers please let us know when they restart.

Event	Day	Time	Where	Contact
Community Café	Tuesday	9.00am - 12.00pm	Social Club	Gill Adams 07826 291759
Mobile Post Office	Tuesday	10.30am - 12.30pm	Social Club car park	
Cherington PC	Tuesday bi-monthly	6.00pm	Cherington Village hall	Richard Smith 07884 265117
Bell Ringing	Tuesday	7.30 - 9.00pm	Church Bell Tower	Andrew 01453 835783
Line Dancing	Tuesday	8.00 - 9.30 pm	Social Club	Social Club 01453 833760
Avening Youth Club	Every Tuesday in term time	6.30 – 8.00pm	Avening Memorial Hall	01453 756745
Churchyard tidy up	Wednesday	6.00 - 7.00pm	Holy Cross churchyard	Churchwardens
Avening PC	3rd Wednesday each month	7.30pm	Memorial Hall	Shani Baker 07415 039234
Avening Cinema Club	Last Wednesday each month	7.30pm	Memorial Hall	avening Cinemaclub @gmail.com
Avening W.I.	2nd Thursday each month	7.30pm	Social Club/ Memorial Hall	Liz 01453 833803
Charity Quiz	1st Saturday each month	8.00pm	The Bell	
Avening Angels Choir	Sunday	4.30pm	tba	Derrick Pierce 01453 835090

Contacts for the Villages

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Avening Angels	Derrick Pierce	01453 835090
Avening Bell Tower Captain	Andrew Lelliott	01453 835783
Avening Church Churchwardens	Elizabeth Buchanan Elizabeth Fuller	01453 833016 07773 272933
Avening Church Flower Team	Gill Adams	01453 833175
Avening Church Organist		
Avening Church PCC Treasurer	Nicholas Winkfield	07885 139275
Avening Cinema Club	Sophie or Sue	aveningcinemaclub@gmail.com
Avening Community Café	Gill Adams	07826 291759
Avening Community Orchard	Phoebe Carter	pklc1@hotmail.com
Avening History Project	Jean Chatelain	ajeanchatelain@icloud.com
Avening Memorial Hall	David Bendall	01453833479
Avening Oil Coordinator	Frances Lindley	fndly4@aol.com
Avening Parish Council Clerk	Shani Baker	07415 039234
Avening Playgroup	Angie Heslop	01453 832695
Avening Primary School	Jane Rushton	01453 833191
Avening Silver Band	Jim Hill	01453 834438
Avening Social Club	Derrick Ind	01453 835752
Avening WI	Liz Knowles	01453 833803

Avening Youth Club	The Door	01453 756745
Cherington Village Hall	Camilla Trotter	07545 054160
Cherington Parish Council Clerk	Richard Smith	Cheringtonparishcouncil @yahoo.co.uk 07884 265117
Cherington Church Churchwardens	Helen Di Mauro Claudia Unger	07796 937268 07867 350122
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	Paul Cable	cabes50@yahoo.co.uk
Cotswold District Councillor	Richard Morgan	richard.morgan @cotswold.gov.uk 07483 835137
Friends of Avening School	Nicky Dill	01453 833191
South Cotswold Community Wellbeing Agent		01452 528491
Stroud Hospital	Reception	0300 421 8080
Tetbury Hospital		01666 502336

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



Letter From Avening Parish Council Leader



Letter from Avening Parish Council Leader – January 2023 for Parish Magazine

It's that time of the year again! Full of promise and hope, diets and maybe a few New Year resolutions that still haven't been broken. I would like to start by wishing everyone in the village a very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Craig Forster: Unfortunately it is a very sad start to 2023, as we lost one of our Parish Councillors to cancer. Craig had recently retired from his work as a radiographer at Bath Royal United Hospital. In November Craig had announced that he would not be available for his role on the council for a few months as he was about to go through a course of chemotherapy. I was fortunate to meet up with Craig at his home at the beginning of December; he explained that he possibly had two years left, as his condition was terminal. Sadly, Craig unexpectedly succumbed to his illness on Christmas Eve; leaving behind his partner Julia and sons Tom and Russ. We send our heartfelt condolences to all his family. Craig was always a quiet member of our team who could be relied on to make insightful and considered contributions. His professionalism, humour and ability to work with others was reflected on by the large number of his colleagues who attended his funeral. Craig was a self-confessed 'petrol head' and enjoyed his classic cars amongst his many other interests. It is a sad loss for the village and especially for his partner Julia, as they were due to be married in this month of January. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.



Andrivka: Clare Beddington and Maryana came to the parish council meeting to make a presentation about setting up some sort of link between Avening and a similarly sized community in Ukraine called Andrivka, which has suffered Russian atrocities (documented by Maryana's husband Sergei - available on U-tube!). Andrivka has been in receipt of power-banks funded by donations from Avening; so the hand of friendship has already been extended and with it the opportunity to establish closer links going forward. If you want to become involved in some manner, please contact the parish clerk in the first instance and we will pass on your details to Clare Bebbington who has volunteered to steer the project.

King Charles Coronation, 6th May: The tradition has always been to organise celebrations of some kind; the last one being in the early 1950s is beyond most of our memories. I am aware that various organisations such as The Church, W.I. and the School etc., are probably hatching their own plans. Ideally it would be nice to have some coordination of these events, thereby turning it into a 'village' event. Can I ask that you all talk with each other to see what might be possible; and if necessary

coordinate the day via our parish clerk or parish councillors. The Memorial Hall can be made available to house multiple events. It will be an item on the agenda for the next council meeting in February where we can gauge the interest and possibilities – any ideas are welcome.

Pig Face Day: Last held in pre-covid 2018, we now have the chance to revive it; this will also be an item on the agenda for the Parish Council meeting in February. Whilst it's primarily a Church event, support from outside of the Church to support this ancient tradition would be welcome; with the aim of turning it into a full village event. Ideas and volunteers needed – register your interest via the parish clerk or any of the parish councillors.

Hedges: just a reminder that there is still time to cutback your hedges prior to the nesting season if they are overhanging footpaths.

Potholes: I have received several complaints about potholes, some of the holes have rapidly deteriorated in the winter weather. Be assured that we keep Highways informed; but we are always at their mercy as they have limited budgets to cover the problems.

Just one final thought as we enter a new year; I'm reminded of a saying that 'time is the one coin we all have available to spend – spend it wisely, and make sure that others don't spend it for you!

Keep safe.

Patrick Mulligan (Mob: 07713 068436)
Chairman of Avening Parish Council



Avening and Cherington Churches

In this season of Epiphany, the Three Wise Men are still kneeling in the stable at the church Crèche scene. The visit of the Kings marks the 12th day of Christmas on January 6th, when we take down our trees and pack away the ornaments til next year, but their significance goes far beyond their visit to the Holy Child. They are the precursors of those who recognise Jesus as Messiah in the world outside the town of Bethlehem or the nation of Israel.

It is traditional to leave the crèche scene and the Advent wreath in the church until Candlemas on February 2nd, forty days after Christmas. Three weeks later, we will have moved into the season of preparation for Easter, not with chocolate Eggs in the shops, but with a shift in our behaviour during Lent, when we take the chance to learn more about our faith and about ourselves. There will be Lent Meetings in Avening and Nags Head, based on the Character Course (<https://www.thecharactercourse.com>). You do not have to know anything, and there is no homework. Come to any of the meetings and ask questions, no matter what your faith or lack of faith. You will be more than welcome.

To arrange a christening, wedding or funeral in either Avening or Cherington Church, please get in touch with the Benefice Office in Minchinhampton: admin@minchchurch.org.uk 01453 889004 . Vicki Hayward is the admin officer and will be happy to help you make arrangements.

Elizabeth and Liz, Churchwardens

Lent Meetings

During Lent there will be discussion groups here in Avening and Cherington, based on the Character Course, (<https://www.thecharactercourse.com>). Have a look at the link to get an idea of the format. We think it looks compelling, and hope you do, too! You would be very welcome to join us, whatever your Faith, or no Faith, to learn more and discuss with others.

The first meeting will be in the week of **February 27th**. The groups we are thinking of so far are: Wednesday evening at 6:30pm.

Thursday evening by Zoom 7:00pm.

Please get in touch with Elizabeth Buchanan (01453 833016) or Derrick Pierce (01453 835090), or

with Vicki Hayward at the Benefice office, admin@minchchurch.org.uk.

We would love to have you with us!

Church Services

Date	Holy Cross, Avening	St. Nicholas, Cherington
5 th Feb. 10.00 am	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion
12 th Feb. 10.00 am	Holy Communion	No Service
19 th Feb. 10.00 am	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion
Wed. 22 nd Feb. 7.00 pm	Ash Wednesday service	No Service
26 th Feb. 10.00 am	Holy Communion	No Service
5 th March 10.00 am	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion

Donations to Avening Church



On a number of occasions recently we have been asked if we can take donations by credit or debit card. We are working on this, but to start with we have set up a QR code which if scanned with your smart phone will enable you to make a donation to Avening Church of £5, £10, £15, £20 or any amount that you are able to. You then just feed into your phone your card details and the money will be transferred to our bank account. If you are an income tax payer you will also be given the opportunity to gift aid your donation.

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Graham Leslie Lowe

1948—2022



My Dad Mr Graham Leslie Lowe was born on the 25th March 1943 at home in Burman cottage Henly-in-Arden Warwickshire. He was the first child of Sidney James Lowe and Kathleen Joan Lowe, soon followed by his brother Gerald and sisters Heather, Hazel and Beryl. Being the eldest child, Dad would always get one of his younger siblings to polish his shoes for him every week. But he wasn't mean as he used to pay them 6 pence for the privilege of doing so.

He had a happy childhood where he was a choir boy and played in the school cricket team. He also had a strong passion for steam trains (one of the original trainspotters, he would say). In his early teenage years Dad and his friends would pay a penny to travel anywhere they wanted to go and he loved it.

On leaving school in 1959 at the age of 16 he went to work on the railway in the claims department. He worked there for 5 years. He then worked for a haulage company in Redditch telling the drivers where to go and what to take. He worked there for 7 years.

Dad met my Mum Sue in 1970 and decided to move to Gloucestershire for a quieter life so set up home in Tetbury. In 1971 James was born and myself in 1973. Dad and his family moved to Avening in 1976. Over the years Dad had many jobs, from working at Ivory coaches in Tetbury, Pressboards in Stroud, Paints and Polymers in Stroud (where I think half the village were supplied with paint) and also the bookies in Tetbury but I think the job he loved the most was working in the village shop as Dad was very much a people person. He loved to have a chat with whoever walked through the door and if you had a dog, he would always have a biscuit in his pocket for them. His faithful friend Chewy didn't mind as he knew his dad loved all dogs.

Dad was also fond of a quiz. He was part of the local quiz team at The Cross many years ago and would look forward to going out on a Sunday night to take part. A few years later he then started to host his own quizzes at The Cross every last Thursday of the month

(which worked out quite well as it was buy-one-get-one-free fish and chips) If you were there taking part in one of his quizzes and he could see you were struggling with an answer, he would lean over your shoulder put his glasses on the end of his nose to read what you've put and if it was wrong he would tell you the answer.

Dad also enjoyed a game of skittles every week. He played for many teams and different leagues over the years. He always ended up playing anchor (the last one to play) but I don't think he minded as I think he enjoyed the pressure of being the one to bring home the points.

Up until Covid struck Dad was very much involved with his quizzes and skittles but all good things must come to an end as he would say. But he still enjoyed his Sunday afternoons at the pub to meet his friends for a few pints and maybe a brandy or two.

But in August it was evident that something was wrong... he was diagnosed at the beginning of September and his only wish was to stay at home and take each day as it comes. With the help of the district nurses, the wonderful carers at Longfield Care Hospice and myself, your wish was granted and you passed away peacefully in your sleep in your own home.

R.I.P Dad.

I would like to thank everyone for their kind wishes and condolences and the many people who came to Dad's funeral, especially for their generous donations to the retiring collection, which raised £175.70 for Longfield Care Hospice.

Clare Lowe

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Puzzle Corner

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

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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.

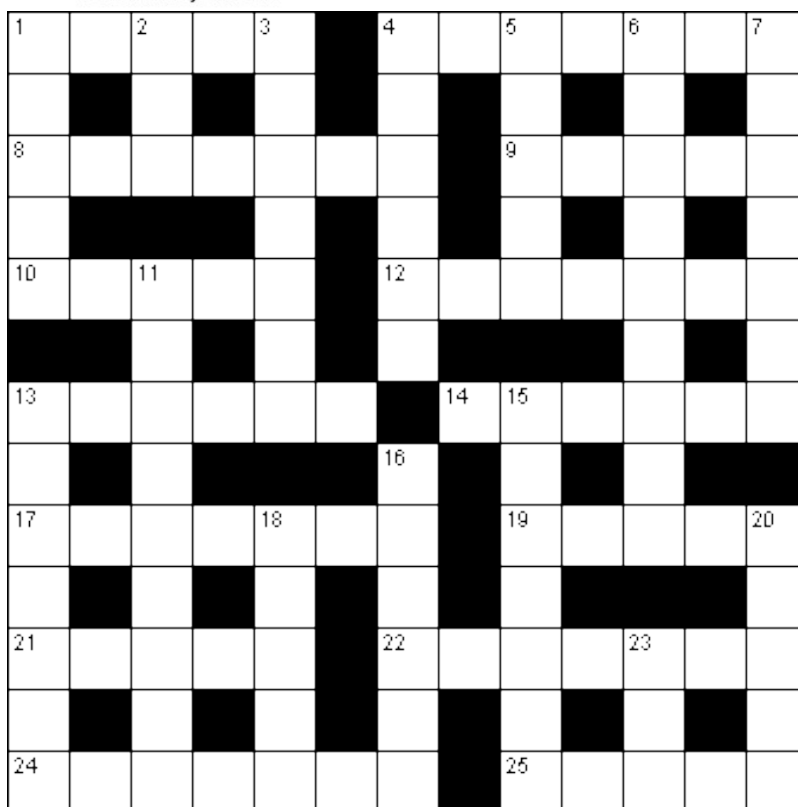
Answers on page 28

Across

1. Prank (5)
4. Small community (7)
8. Everlasting (7)
9. Accolade (5)
10. Wear away (5)
12. Voter (7)
13. Alter or regulate (6)
14. Refuge (6)
17. Repossess (7)
19. Travel lodge (5)
21. Mound of stones used as a marker (5)
22. Sincere (7)
24. Latticework (7)
25. Herd or flock of animals (5)

Down

- | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Subject (5) | 6. Flat (9) | 16. Hot fragments from a fire (6) |
| 2. Frozen water (3) | 7. Senior (7) | 18. Declare invalid (5) |
| 3. Dog houses (7) | 11. Target (9) | 20. Supple (5) |
| 4. Smooth fabric (6) | 13. Fruit (7) | 23. Self (3) |
| 5. Letting contract (5) | 15. Stuck (7) | |



Gilian's Poem of the Month

The Promise Of Spring

I see, with mild surprise, the eager snowdrops,
Thrusting their tender heads through the deep, damp earth,
And there, amongst the leaf-mould of the wild wood,
I find the first shy primrose to give birth.
I feel the warmth flow from the gentle sunshine,
And hear, at dawn, with overflowing heart,
That heavenly crescendo of sweet birdsong,
And I know that soon the Winter must depart.
The air is mild, and twilight lingers softly,
Blending with perfect peace into the night.
Then, tenderly, the first green buds of Springtime
Reach forth their tiny fingers to the light.
The days are lengthening, the year is young,
And full of promise that the Spring is near,
And in my heart and soul a thankfulness
That Winter is behind us for another year.....

Gilian Bulmer-Davison.



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Queen Matilda's Diary

Matilda of Flanders became Queen of England upon her marriage to William the Conqueror. Born in Bruges in Belgium in 1031, she died aged 52. They produced ten children, William II and Henry I subsequently becoming kings of England.

In 1080, Matilda was responsible for commissioning the building of Avening's Holy Cross church, the only church ever to be built by a Queen of England. Extracts from her diary explain how this came about. (Mediaeval French is notoriously difficult to translate, so I have had to make some bold assumptions).

Roger Lindley

December 1066 - Falaise Castle, Normandy



Falaise Castle

William arrived back from England yesterday, all full of himself: he defeated Harold at the Battle of Hastings and he's now the King, which is rather nice as that makes me the Queen. They are calling him William the Conqueror too, which is a lot better than being called William the Bastard, as he is here in Normandy, although that wasn't his fault of course. Actually that's what

probably has made him such a good fighter. You don't want to mess with my William!

Apparently, overcoming King Harold wasn't all that difficult. William took an army of 10,000 men on 60 ships to the English South coast, which was undefended. Harold was fighting up North, so by the time his army returned South to meet them they were completely exhausted. William's troops were better kitted out too, as they included cavalry and archers and Harold's men were just foot soldiers. Poor Harold didn't stand a chance, and he got an arrow in his eye for his pains too, and was then chopped down by one of our knights. William felt a bit bad about that, so he's having an abbey built exactly where Harold fell as a penance. It will be called Battle Abbey. Well, they do say that a penance is a very sensible precaution for the afterlife.

So we will be moving to England soon. I'd like to live somewhere warmer than this castle. It was so cold last winter I've commissioned a chap in Bayeux to design a massive tapestry to block out the gaps in the walls. William has asked if it could depict his recent success at Hastings, and I have reluctantly agreed, although I was planning on a Normandy theme. What would that be, he said, 70 metres of calvados and camembert? Well he has a point.

I've got someone looking for somewhere suitable in England, and I've told him that I'm

not prepared to live in the North, as it's even colder and wetter than here apparently. William will still need to spend most of his time in France protecting his lands, which are extensive and cover most of France and Flanders. I warned him that this was one of the dangers of extending his territory; all those castles to build, and garrisons to defend them, it's an expensive business, but he wouldn't listen. So I have to be prepared to take charge in England when he's away; that should be fun. And it will allow me to settle a particular score. Twenty years on, revenge will be sweet!

Next month: Matilda moves to England and is crowned Queen. Her diary reveals shocking scenes of violence and skulduggery. 'Hell hath no fury like a Queen scorned'...



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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 Playgroup

It has been lovely to welcome the children back after the Christmas holiday as well as say a big welcome to those children who are just starting at Avening Playgroup.

Since October we have extended our opening hours and these are currently:

Monday 9.15am – 2.45pm

Tuesday 9.15am – 1.15pm

Wednesday 9.15am – 12.15pm

Thursday 9.15am – 2.45pm

Friday 9.15 – 12.15pm



The hours on a Monday, Tuesday and Thursday include a lunch club which runs between 12.15 and 1.15 pm. The lunch clubs and extended hours are for those children who are 3 years and over.

So far, this term, we have been looking at:

Weather: Playing weather bingo, matching clothes to wear in different weather and making clouds out of shaving foam.

Pen control: Lots of tracing over lines and the letters in our names, drawing our families, painting numbers, as well as playing with playdough and making patterns on the peg boards.

Pirates: Making toilet roll telescopes, pirate hats, walking the plank, playing sink or float and, of course, going on a treasure hunt.



The children have also enjoyed playing with the pirate ship on the tray, completing the new world map puzzle together and building lots of Lego models.

At Avening Playgroup we are also planning for the next school year, so if you have a child who will become 3 years of age between 1st September 2023 and 31st August 2024, and you would like them to attend our playgroup, please email Angie on aveningplaygroup@gmail.com or phone us on 01453 832695.

Angie Heslop

Jim Hill Honoured

On Saturday 10th December at St Mary's Church Woodchester Jim Hill was presented with the Stroud Branch Chairman's Rose Bowl in recognition of his 76 years of service to church bell ringing in Avening.

The presentation was made by Gloucester & Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bell Ringers Chairman Rodger Haynes. With them in the photo here is the Association Stroud Branch Chairman David Pouncey.



On the following Saturday at Avening church a quarter peal consisting of 1,260 changes of Grandsire Doubles was rung in Jim's honour with Steve Uzzell ringing the tenor bell. Despite the snow and ice Jim joined the ringers in the ringing chamber after for mince pies and drinks.

Andrew Lelliott

Extract from The Ringing World 6/1/2023

Stroud celebrates a 76-year ringing career

Jim Hill, of Avening, Gloucestershire was taught to ring by his grandfather, George Edmunds, (Tower Captain) when he was 14. Having celebrated his 90th birthday in July of this year, it came to the attention of the Stroud Branch officers that he has been ringing for 76 years. Jim's other talent is playing wind instruments, running the Avening Band and

being in a Jazz band. That means that his memory of the 1953 Coronation is of marching through the village with the band, rather than ringing the bells. But since then, Jim has continued to be a stalwart ringer in the tower, for decade after decade.



Jim (centre) joined the ringers at Avening following the quarter peal in his honour. Steve Uzzell on far right

and Carol Service, which took place at Woodchester on 10th December. The presentation was made by the G&B Association Chairman, Roger Haynes.

The following week a band gathered in a snowy Avening, to ring a Quarter Peal in Jim's honour. He braved the snow to join them afterwards in the ringing chamber for a celebratory drink and mince pie.

The hope is that in May 2023, he will remain fit enough to ring for the King's Coronation!



Avening School

Happy New Year from all at Avening School! We are back in the classroom and so excited about the spring term ahead which is packed full of outings and activities.



January started with a burst of song as our KS2 Young Voices choir travelled to the Birmingham NEC Arena to perform alongside 6,500 other children at the Young Voices 2023 concert. Supported by an audience made up of parents and family members, the children sang their hearts out to a fantastic medley of songs, accompanied on the centre stage by singer Heather Small and a team of dancers from the Urban Strides dance group. Not only did it feel wonderful to see everyone having such a

fabulous time, we were hugely proud of how our children behaved and committed to the long afternoon rehearsal session as well as the performance itself.

A new term means a fresh topic for learning and exploring. Our KS2 classes are travelling back in time, with the Hawks Class (y3/4) exploring the Romans in their term topic while next door in the Owls, the focus is on the Vikings. Meanwhile, in the Kestrels class, we are looking at superheroes from the past and present and the Eagles are enjoying traditional tales.

The Hawks Class took part in a gymnastics session at Sir William Romney's School in mid-January, while selected members of KS2 were also chosen to represent the school at a gymnastics tournament at Deer Park School. After-school clubs have commenced, with children able to choose from a variety of clubs ranging from Spanish lessons and art for Key Stage 1, to swimming, cross-country running, football and running.

It is almost that time of year again when we immerse ourselves in a classic children's story for our World Book Day celebrations. This year's World Book day is at the beginning of March and we are currently discussing ideas for this year's event. More news to come in next month's edition.

Looking ahead beyond half term, we are hosting an oracy competition, which will see our children competing against pupils across Gloucestershire, and there will also be sporting events, parent coffee mornings and the Avening Talent Show – much to look forward to!

Our Fledglings pre-school sessions are back in full swing after the December break, every Friday afternoon 2-3pm. If you are interested in finding out more about these sessions, please contact the school office for more information.

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

Alex Adcock

Acts of Kindness

On Monday 16th January (appropriately named Blue Monday) I drove up to Minch. to do some shopping. Imagine my horror when, returning to my car, I discovered that all the doors had locked, with my dog, my mobile, and the car keys all inside! Passing strangers, noting my plight, stopped to see if they could help. Alas, no!

Returning to the Market Stores I was immediately offered sympathy and assistance. A mobile phone was produced, the A.A. called, a notice made for the car windscreen in case the traffic warden was about, and an offer made to take an incoming call from the A.A. to say when they were on their way and relay it down to the cafe, so that I could go and wait in the warm! At the Kitchen I was given a warm welcome, a cup of hot sweet tea, and a newspaper to read at a table in the window.

After an hour I was told that the A.A. were at last on their way, but would be at least another half hour. Concerned for my dog, I left the cafe to return to the car to find Rosie, my dog, sound asleep! I perched miserably on the bonnet in an icy north wind and a sleety drizzle to wait, but a man appeared at my side from Henry's, opposite where I was parked, to escort me into the welcome warmth, sit me at a window seat, where I could see the car, and provide another cup of hot tea! About twenty minutes later a smiley A.A. man arrived and had the car doors unlocked in less than five minutes!

All's well that ends well, I reflected as I drove home, but felt uplifted that there still remain in this modern, frenetic world, small caring communities in pockets of rural England where people have the compassion, the inclination and the time to show such kindness to someone in distress. I cannot thank The Market Stores, The Kitchen, and Henry's enough for all their help, turning what could have been an upsetting and distressing situation into a revelation at the kindness of mere acquaintances and total strangers!

Well done, Minchinhampton!

Gilian Bulmer-Davison



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How to boost your State Pension and access the Household Support Fund in the Cotswolds

Do you know someone on a state pension who struggles to make ends meet? Or perhaps a couple? What if they could get a boost to their income? Too good to be true? A lot of other state pensioners certainly think so: a third of those who are eligible miss out. That's a million older people scrimping and saving and going cold when they don't need to.

This pension boost is called 'Pension Credit'. It not only provides extra pension income: **it can also cover or reduce a host of other costs – rent, mortgage payments, council tax, energy and utilities, TV licence, dentists and opticians and more.** Overall, the effects really can be transformative to pensioners who are struggling.

How to qualify? State pensioner households may be eligible if income is less than £182.60 per week for single people and £278.80 for couples. Pensioner households with higher income may be eligible in some circumstances – for instance if there is a carer in the household or a disability.

So, have a think: do you know someone who may qualify? If in doubt, search for Pension Credit online, ring the Pension Helpline - **0800 99 1234** (8am to 5pm, Monday to Friday), or get in touch with us at Citizens Advice Stroud and Cotswolds, **0808 800 0510** (10-4 Monday to Friday, 10-1 Friday) where we can check you are claiming all the benefits you are entitled to. Don't hesitate – Pension Credit can make a big difference.

Pension Credit may also help you to access the **Household Support Fund** for help with food, energy costs and wider essentials such as warm clothes, bedding, boiler repairs and the purchase of white goods. Citizens Advice Stroud and Cotswold Districts currently have funding from Cotswold District Council to help pensioners on Pension Credit or who are on a low income and struggling to make ends meet. Please do contact us if you are interested in accessing the fund.



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Down Memory Lane

Following months of hard work by Jean Chatelain, the curator of our historical records, we are pleased to announce the first section of the Avening Archive is now available for all to view – photos and documents relating to ‘Buildings and Places’ is now accessible from www.Avening-pc.gov.uk (navigate to Avening Archive and click the ‘more info’ button). You will see several folders, where you can explore the records.



Over the coming months more sections will be released covering people, events, parish records, and much more. The WW1 and census records are also being refreshed – I will highlight these in the magazine and on the village Facebook pages as soon as they are ready.

If you have access to any historic village photos (even those covering more recent events) or records that might be of interest, please contact Jean or myself, or email them to us with a covering note showing details/names using the contact details on the website.

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The film club is a not for profit community event. Any profit made after screening/licence costs will be donated to local charities



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Longfield's Ale Amble returns

Longfield Community Hospice is organising the perfect day out for beer and rugby fans, with its popular Ale Amble returning to Stroud Brewery on 11 March from 11 am-3 pm.

Starting and finishing at Stroud's iconic brewery, the Amble will follow a scenic four-mile circular walk, with pit stops for a tippie at two pubs along the way. The route takes in the majestic hills of the Heavens surrounding the parishes of Thrupp and Lypiatt. It's the perfect opportunity to enjoy some fresh air and exercise with family and friends. Walkers will be welcomed back at the brewery with a free pint (or soft drink for under 18s) before catching up with a Six Nations rugby match on the big screen. Food will also be available on the premises.



To sign up for the event, visit www.longfield.org.uk/event/ale-amble

An early bird discount will apply to all registrations made before 30 January. Registration will be £15 for an adult or £10 for a child and you can choose to make a donation or raise sponsorship. You will also receive a Longfield t-shirt to wear proudly on the day!



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Avening WI

We have begun the New Year looking forward to a varied programme for 2023. In addition to our monthly meetings with a speaker, we are planning regular walks with lunch, workshops, County and friendly skittle matches, book club, garden visits and trips further afield. In April we plan to visit the American Museum in Bath.



At our January meeting we welcomed Amanda Sanders who led us in a 'Dance for Health and Wellbeing' class. Amanda started by outlining the benefits of dancing on our physical and mental health and encouraged us to try to dance for five minutes every day. Then the fun began. Our members looked rather apprehensive at first but Amanda assured us we would soon be smiling.....and we were! To a variety of music we tried to

follow her moves which included Charleston and Cha-cha. It was a most enjoyable and uplifting session. We are hoping to arrange a weekly daytime class led by Amanda.

We are Walking in Westonbirt Arboretum in late January, taking advantage of their 'bring a relative free on Tuesdays' scheme; then a pub lunch to follow. Often, members who don't want to walk join us for lunch.

Our speaker for February is Frances Culham who will be telling us about Five Valley Sounds, Talking News. Our meetings take place on the second Thursday of the month at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall. Visitors and potential members are welcome to join us.

For further information please contact our secretary Helen at aveningwi@gmail.com or president Liz on 01453 833803

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A R T S C E N T R E

HIGHLIGHTS FOR FEBRUARY

- February 4th** **Comedy Club:** Tonight Mark Cram and Diane Spencer are compered by cabaret goddess Ada Campe. 8pm. Tickets£12/£10 under25
- February 11th** **Noasis:** Supergroup Oasis definitive tribute band touring since 2006 with all the classic songs. 7.30.Tickets£18
- February 18th** **Katey Brooks:** Singer songwriter Katey has featured on radio and on stage around the world and her most recent album, Revolute, included a best album of the year. 7.30. Tickets £14.50/£10 for under 25s
- February 22th** **Childrens Theatre:** Playtime with the Last Baguette from 10 followed by a Theatre Workshop 2-5. Booking essential as spaces are limited. Thanks to Tesco's Community Grants these sessions are free.
- February 25th** **Shylock:** The story of Shylock from The Merchant of Venice written and performed by RSC performer Gareth Armstrong. His performance has won awards around the world. 7.30. Tickets £14.50/£10 under 25s

For details of cinema showings on Thursdays and other events – and to book tickets please visit our website:

[www,shed-arts.co.uk](http://www.shed-arts.co.uk)

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Puzzle Answers

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

T	R	I	C	K		V	I	L	L	A	G	E	
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E	R	O	D	E		E	L	E	C	T	O	R	
		B		L		T				M		L	
A	D	J	U	S	T		S	A	F	E	T	Y	
P		E				E		D		N			
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T	R	E	L	L	I	S			D	R	O	V	E

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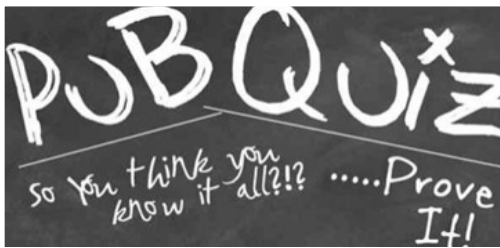
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Avening Parish Council



Craig Forster

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of our valued Parish Councillor, Craig. He will be greatly missed.

Crime report – 12 Nov – 28th Dec 2022

13 Crimes were reported. 1 Assault, 3 Violence, 1 Fraud, 1 RTC, 7 Other

The Tetbury Neighbourhood Policing Team can be contacted on 101 or emailing 101@gloucestershire.police.uk Neighbourhood Policing Team, PC Chris Pritchard and PCSO Edmund Maina

Motorcycles on the Bridle Ways

There have been further reports of motor cyclist using bridleways in the area. The Police advice is not to approach the riders, but if safe to do so, take the registration numbers and report on 101.

Playing Field

The new gates have been installed and the new gym equipment is installed and being used.

Highways

The Parish Council has had difficulty getting the salt bins refilled. Please use salt on the roads sparingly. Do not use on private land.

Planning Applications & Tree Works Since the Last Issue

New Planning Applications

22/04277/TCONR: Playing Field Rectory Lane. T1 Ash - symptomatic to ash die back, fell to ground level due to proximity to play area

23/00018/TCONR: 15 Tetbury Hill. (1) 4 overgrown Beech stems at the end of the Beech hedge. Fell to near ground level. (2) Laurel group behind. Reduce down to fence height. (5) Whitebeam on the lawn. Reduce all over by up to 4.0m

Decision Notices

22/04073/TCONR: 6 Old Hill. A mature Western Red Cedar in the garden reduce in height from 8 to 6m and diameter from 10 to 5m. Tree was reduced in 2017 per 17/03176 and now requires reduction to the same dimensions to remove excessive shading of the property and the adjacent property and to remove impingement on the telephone wires - No Objection

22/03980/FORST: Land Parcel Ruggers Green Wood and Oldfield Wood. Felling and restocking.– No Objection.

22/03478/TPO: Land Parcel Ruggers Green Wood and Oldfield Wood. Fell to the ground all dangerous, dying and suppressed trees. (2) Prune all dangerous, dying and suppressed branches. (3) Fell all ash in stages 3 & 4 of dieback. (4) Re-establish coppice rotation in relation to all hazel stools which have previously been subject to coppicing. (5) Establish hazel coppice rotation on all sub-8cm diameter hazel specimens where previously this has not been the case.– No Objection

22/03832/FUL: 3 Star Farm Cottages Star Lane. Erection of two-storey rear extension

and loft conversion – Permitted.

22/03824/FUL: 1 Star Farm Cottages Star Lane. Erection of two-storey rear extension and loft conversion – Permitted

22/03765/FUL: 2 Star Farm Cottages Star Lane. Erection of rear two storey extension and other associated works - Permitted

22/02659/FUL: Ansford Cottage 5 Woodstock Lane Erection of single storey rear extension and detached garage extension, demolition of existing rear bay window and associated works - Permitted

22/02043/FUL 18: Woodstock Lane Erection of single storey extension, internal alterations, relocation of roof-light and replacement of roof-light frames.– Permitted

22/02044/LBC 1: Woodstock Lane Erection of single storey extension, internal alterations, relocation of roof-light and replacement of roof-light frames. - Permitted

Potholes

Report the potholes directly to Highways on 08000 514514 or at the GCC Report It website.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 15th February 2023 at 7.30pm In the Memorial Hall . Agendas and minutes can be viewed at www.avening-pc.gov.uk. The Parish Clerk can be contacted via email: parishclerk@avening-pc.gov.uk

Church Floodlighting

Holy Cross church was floodlit on:

3rd December

In loving memory of **Joan Newman**, from Brian and family

16th December

In loving memory of **Richard Chapman (Dick)** on his birthday. Love from all the family.

28th December

In loving memory of the most wonderful mum, grandma, sister and friend – Angela Kerry – on what would have been her birthday.
Always missed and never forgotten.

February 19th

In loving memory of Michael Powell. From Thelma, Kevin and Columba
The church looks beautiful at night when floodlit. If you would like to have this in memory of a loved one, or to celebrate a special event, contact **Piers Hansen on 07770 745642**. The cost is £10 for 2 hours.



Avening Community Café

The Café is open every Tuesday morning from 9 to 12 in the Social Club for coffee, homemade cakes and a chat. Mobile Post Office on site from 10:30 – 12:15.

Happy New Year to all – we are looking forward to another exciting year and welcome existing and new customers to join us.



Many thanks to the “Made in Avening” crafters who came along in December with a marvellous display of interesting goods for sale. It was nice to see families and friends at our Christmas week café - plenty of childrens’ sweets from Santa’s sack and mince pies for the adults! Thank you to those who supported our Christmas raffle which raised £150 for ‘The Long Table’ based at Brimscombe Mill. Well done to Wendy Jennings

who won our World Cup sweepstake.

The first communal rag rug has also just been completed and looks great; thanks to Michael for his innovative idea and all of the “rugger”.

Event for your dairies – AGM Tuesday 7th March 7.30pm at The Bell. All welcome, please come along to give us your ideas for future activities/themes for the Café.

HIGHLIGHTS for FEBRUARY

Feb 7th WI - bacon rolls today!

Feb 14th Valentines Day. Also meet some of your Parish Councillors in the lounge area to discuss your concerns and ideas

Feb 21st Shrove Tuesday - pancakes today! Art with Mark 9:30 to 11:30am, £3 per session, all materials provided

Feb 28th Celebrate St Davids Day

Also, don’t forget to visit “The Book Box” (Old Hill) and “Plants on the Wall” (High Street).



John Hetterley, for Avening Community Cafe

The 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.



The Youth Club is held every Tuesday in term time **6.30-8pm (note new times!)** in the Memorial Hall.

All children aged 8 to 14 are welcome and there is now **NO CHARGE!**

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Dates For Your Diary

Date	Event	Location	Time
Wednesday 22nd February	Avening Film Club Operation Mincemeat	Avening Memorial Hall	7.30
Tuesday 7 th March	Avening Community Café AGM	The Bell	7.30pm
Saturday 6th May	Coronation Day – events tbc		
11 June	Art Show and Tombola	Avening Church	tbc



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- Woodland Weddings and other Family Celebrations
- Children's Laser Tag Parties

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