

The Villager

A Magazine for Avening,
Cherington and Nags Head

MAY 2024

editors@villagemag.online



Richard Murray



Liane Wheeler



Raph Arwas



Annabel Crapper



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May 2024

As we ease our way towards summer the mornings are bright, the birds are singing gaily and life is getting busier. We are looking forward to the Avening Church Fete, the Art Show and the Avening Singers 'Sounds of Summer' all on the same exciting village weekend in June; please note that for the last one the organisers are keen to hear from anyone of any age who would like to sing, dance or recite something at this event, preferably, though not necessarily, associated with the summer.

We were pleased to hear that the long-standing vacancy on the Parish Council has been filled, and also that the church has a new priest, who will cover Avening, Cherington and Amberley. Welcome, Rev. Natalie Jennings!

However, we were sorry to learn that one of the most important organisations for families in Avening, the Playgroup, has been struggling. We hope that sufficient funds are found and enough youngsters join it so this vital facility, which has been so significant in the early development of many of our children, is kept open.

On the subject of children, we were thrilled to be asked to publish some excellent pieces of work written by children in Years 5 and 6 at Avening School. They are on the topic 'Visit Avening' and you can read the first one on page 25.

The Villager Editors

The Villager Magazine

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Photographs in The Villager Magazine

Many thanks to **Tony Slater** for this lovely photo of spring flowers. Please keep sending us your photographs, especially since all the images will be in colour in the downloadable version of the Magazine.

editors@villagemag.online

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

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VILLAGE & AREA WEB SITES

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

Cherington Parish Council: cheringtonpc.org.uk.

Cherington Village: www.cheringtonvillage.co.uk

Cotswold District Council: www.cotswold.gov.uk

Facebook: Avening Instagram: #aveningvillage

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
Monday 8th May	Avening Parish Council Meeting	Avening Memorial Hall	7.00 pm
Saturday 18 th May	Avening Parish Council AGM with Community Café	Avening Social Club	10 am
Wednesday 29th May	Avening Cinema Club The Miracle Club	Avening Memorial Hall	7.30pm
Saturday 4th June	Avening Litter Pick	Meet at Avening Social Club	9.30 am
Friday 7th June	Sounds of Summer	Avening Memorial Hall	7.00pm
Sunday 9th June	Avening Church Fete, Dog Show and Art Exhibition	Avening Church and Churchyard	tba
Sunday 28th July	Cherington Show	Cherington	

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CHERINGTON SHOW
SUNDAY 28TH JULY 2024



Church Floodlighting

The church looks beautiful at night when floodlit.

The church will be floodlit on:

May 18th for **Terry Francis**.

2 years since his passing. Forever in our hearts.

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 and Cherington Churches

After Jesus rose from the dead on Easter Day, he stayed amongst his disciples for 40 days, guiding and teaching. And then He ascended into heaven, leaving His disciples wondering how to carry on with His work. Pentecost was the event which opened the gates to their futures. We celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit into their midst on Sunday May 19th at a Joint Benefice service in Minchinhampton, where Avening and Cherington will join other parishes in our benefice at 5:30pm, followed afterwards by cake and fizz. Everyone is invited to join in. Do join us!(If you prefer a morning service there will be a Celtic type service of morning prayer in Avening at 10.00am)

Elizabeth and Stephanie, Church Wardens

Dear friends,

It is a delight to introduce myself to you as the newly-appointed Associate Priest of Amberley, Avening and Cherington. I currently minister in a group of rural churches in Herefordshire, where I've served as Assistant Curate since 2021, and take up my post when I'm licensed at Amberley Church at 7.30pm on Tuesday 16th July.

I originally hail from the depths of the West Country, having grown up in rural South Somerset before spending two years each in Falmouth and Durham, where I trained for ministry. My faith was nurtured in my village's parish church, where my involvement began by attending a Holiday Club and grew until, eventually, it was where I first heard God calling me to be a priest. After

university, I spent two years further discerning this call as a participant on the Ministry Experience Scheme in the Diocese of Truro before my training at Cranmer Hall commenced in 2019. As you can tell from the date, it wasn't long before COVID appeared on the scene and my time at theological college was somewhat interrupted. Nevertheless, some good came out of my time there, mostly meeting and entering into a Civil Partnership with my partner, Jo. She – along with our dogs, Bertie and Bella, and our four rabbits – will be making the move to Gloucestershire with me.

I've always had a deep love for the Eucharist – the coming together of a community to share in Holy Communion – but during my time in ministry I've discovered that my passion extends to worship in all forms, from Pet Services to Evensong to Wild Church (I have my life-long links with Girlguiding to thank for the latter!). For me, ministry is all about enabling a community to know and respond to the love of God. This means getting stuck in with acts of service that demonstrate Jesus' servant heart (like keeping the churchyard volunteers well-stocked with hot drinks and cake), enabling community



gatherings, and bringing that community together to worship God, in whatever form that takes. All dog-friendly, of course, as Bertie and Bella like to tag along! Naturally, my life involves more than ministry (especially as I'll be working part-time) so when I'm at home, you're most likely to find me in the garden, or curled up in a comfy chair knitting, reading a book, or planning my next DIY project or caravan trip. I also enjoy walking so I'm keen to explore the local area on foot once I've arrived.

Jo and I are excited to make the move to Amberley and get to know the people of Avening and Cherington, and Minchinhampton and Box, too. Please bear with me as I get to know the many new people and places; I'm sure there will be some bumps along the way, but I am looking forward to journeying with you in this new season for us all.

Every blessing,

Natalie
Rev. Natalie Jennings

Church Services

Date	Holy Cross, Avening	St. Nicholas, Cherington
5 th May 10.00am	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion
12 th May 10.00am	Holy Communion	NO SERVICE
19 th May 10.00am 5.30pm.	Celtic Morning Prayer	NO SERVICE
	Benefice Pentecost service in Minchinhampton church	
26 th May 10.00am	Holy Communion	NO SERVICE
2 nd June 10.00am	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion
9th June	NO Service Avening FETE	No Service



Donations to Avening Church

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 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.

Letter from Chairman of Avening Parish Council



We have enjoyed some outbreaks of sunshine between the rain storms over the last week or so and with it comes the reminder that summer will soon be with us, and we will all feel the better for it.

There are only a few points to mention this month; first and foremost, I'm delighted to announce that we now have a full contingency on the Parish Council. A vacancy occurred with the very sad passing of Craig Forster some fourteen months ago. Craig was a skilled and valued member of the team and it has taken a while to fill the void he left behind. We now welcome James Mills to the team; James has a partner and young family, and has been in the village for a number of years. He has worked in risk management for various financial institutions and is currently a senior manager at Nationwide Building Society. As with all the other Parish Councillors, James will be allocated a dedicated role within the team after he has completed his settling-in period.

Memorial Hall: The new heating system is in place and functioning. The feedback from the hall users is that it has transformed their experience. No longer a matter of wearing extra layers of clothes, instead one of having to shed a few layers. With the removal of the old wall heaters, the hall now has a sleeker look which makes it look larger and more suitable for sports or ball games.

Nailsworth Bowls Club: Just a reminder that they are always looking for new members. Free taster evenings are available each Friday from the start of the season in April. Located off of the same entrance as Nailsworth Garden Centre it is very conveniently placed and is probably the reason that many members are from Avening. Details are on their website.

The Queen Matilda: For those who may not have heard the Planning Officers decision; he has decided that the pub should be put on the market for a period of 12 months to test the waters as to whether a buyer can be found. Given the number of objectors to the closure, I anticipate that there should be a significant number of villagers who will want to club together to raise the necessary funds and appropriate business plan.

Avening Parish Council AGM: A second reminder that we will be holding our Avening Parish Council public meeting, on the morning of Saturday 18th May at the Social Club. Start time of 10.00am.; scheduled for a minimum of 1 hour, the length of the meeting will depend on the attendance and matters discussed. This is an opportunity for villagers to hear a resume of the previous year's parish business and to direct any questions to the councillors on any appropriate subject or concerns. Oh, I nearly forgot – the Parish Council will be paying for free Tea/Coffee and cakes for those that attend.

I send you all my best wishes.

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

Famous duck races, dog show, art exhibition, games for children, teas and cakes, plenty of stalls and much more...

AVENING FETE



Sunday 9th June 2.00-4.30



AVENING SINGERS

presents...



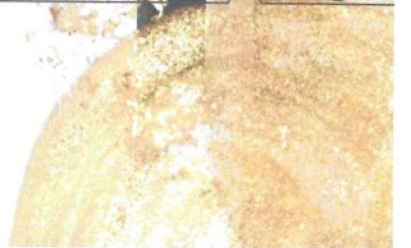
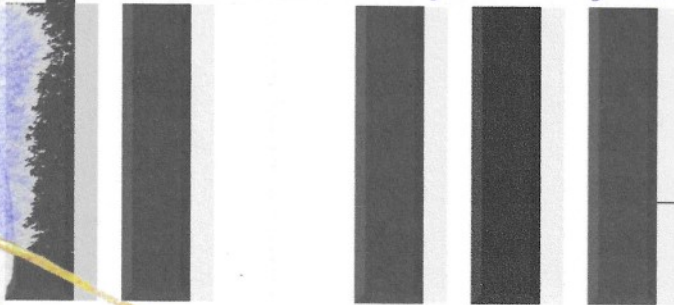
We are looking for performers for a
Village concert!*

Singers, Dancers, Poets, Musicians...
(All ages welcome)

We need you!

If interested, or to enquire, please
contact Jane: jwhaley1@aol.com

*Concert date 7th June 2024



Gilian's Poem of the Month

I was just thinking how very different May Day is now compared to when I was a child , and how sad it is that these age-old traditions are no longer celebrated.

The Rites Of May

Fair May! Now Spring is here at last, ousting cold Winter's brutal blast,
With greening trees, and blossoms bright, with longer days and shorter nights.
They say March winds and April showers bring forth blooms of sweet Spring flowers,
To welcome the advent of the Spring, when sun is warm and songbirds sing.

"Who doffs his coat on a Winter's day, will gladly put it on in May!"
For 'tho' May heralds in the Spring, she still can wield an icy sting!
"And should you shear your sheep in May ,then you will shear your flock away"...
Old sayings, but still just as true, and still advising what we do....

Young maidens, seeking beauty's grace, rise early just to wash their face
In sweetest dew beneath the thorn, as Mayday welcomes in the dawn.
Then fairest maid that can be found is crowned May Queen of all around!
But of May's rites so few survive, keeping old customs still alive.

In parishes across the land, on village greens tall maypoles stand,
With ribbons fluttering in the breeze, as dancing children interweave,
And lively Morrismen with sticks, and jingling bells, perform their tricks.
But sadly in this modern day these old traditions pass away.....

Sweet May comes bringing gifts of flowers, and blossoming trees in leafy bowers,
With lambs that frolic in the fields, as Winter's bitter legacy yields....
Long may these English customs last, bringing sweet echoes of the past,
To celebrate this special day, so sing with the birds to welcome May!

Gilian Bulmer-Davison

“Hugo is a godsend...”

As a 60-year-old with limited IT experience, I now have on-tap support. He is punctual, stays on point with careful easy focus to the task, and has a gift for explaining. He is a natural facilitator so that the learner takes control for themselves with simple steps. **Any laptop, computer, iPad or iPhone issue**, and synchronising of them, is a breeze for him. He can work face-to-face or remotely. Both are extremely effective. I cannot recommend him highly enough. Reliable, approachable, talented, and user-friendly.” - *Deborah from Box*

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District Councillor's Report



CDC: There was a rare outbreak of harmony at the March Full Council meeting, with nothing too controversial; measures were put in place to adopt the government's new policies for empty properties, second and holiday homes. There will be exceptions and safeguards for specific events such as protracted probate cases, but in a nutshell these properties will be liable for a 100% surcharge on council tax payments. GCC and the Police Authority will receive the biggest share of the additional income, but CDC plan to add their portion to the Affordable Housing Fund. Another initiative that received unanimous support was the reintroduction of the CDC Unsung Hero award. This is in line with King Charles's aim of encouraging volunteering in our communities. There will be 4 awards per full council meeting, and nominations are welcome from individuals and parishes.

Overview & Scrutiny: There was no O&S meeting this month as the reports were not ready.

Roads: These continue to be a big issue in the county and seem to be getting worse. Last summer I reported a stretch of lane from Cherington to the A433 – there were too many issues to report individually, and I insisted that an engineer looked at the whole stretch, and many holes were duly repaired. Having driven the lane again recently and nearly losing another tyre, I went back and counted 64 defects! However, Highways responded 'no fault found'. Needless to say, I will be pursuing this accordingly. Regarding my own case of vehicle damage, I have now logged a County Court small claim, which GCC intend to defend. GCC Highways have recently published the list of 150 roads that will be resurfaced in the next budgetary year – sadly there are very few in the south Cotswolds, and zero in the Grumbolds Ash area!

Car Parking: The Cabinet approved increases to car parking charges in the district, and have ended free parking on Sundays on most sites including Church St. in Tetbury.

River pollution is a big national topic currently, and I took the opportunity to look at the statistics for our little stream in Avening. We have a small sewage processing unit for the village which uses reed beds to purify the output, but I was staggered to see that there were **118 sewage spill incidents** (these are occurrences when raw sewage is pumped into the stream) in the last year. I have contacted Severn Trent to arrange a site visit for them to explain these terrible statistics and what they are doing to stop them.

Annual Parish Meetings are usually held in May – I'll be at most of these for Grumbold's Ash parishes so do pop along and say hello, or ask me a question.

Councillor Tony Slater

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

Other updates and information for Parish Councils:

Fix My Street: Use this link (https://www.fixmystreet.com/?fbclid=IwAROT_TtTd0-s8hijkyhoo2mCASJ271bHh_gUs6EoU8ZjUsiPcfeFRLkSbFo) to report, view, or discuss local problems like graffiti, fly tipping, broken paving slabs, or street lighting. This reports back to the appropriate Council.

Car Parking Charge increases: From 1 April 2024, Car Park charges increase and Sunday Car Park charges will be at the following car parks:

Cirencester: Abbey Ground, 12pm to 6pm
Beeches 10am to 6pm
Brewery 10am to 6pm
Forum 10am to 6pm
Leisure Centre 10am to 6pm
Old Station 10am to 6pm
Sheep Street 12pm to 6pm
Waterloo 10am to 6pm
Tetbury: Church Street, 12pm to 6pm
West Street, 10am to 6pm

Abbey Ground, Sheep Street and Church Street car parks are in close proximity to places of worship so Sunday charging will not come into force until midday.

Are you ready for the elections?

Voters are encouraged to make sure they are registered and have photo ID ahead of the May Police and Crime Commissioner elections. Anyone applying to vote by post will need to provide their national insurance number as part of the application. If you have an existing postal vote arrangement, you will not need to apply again.

Election Day Staff Needed At Cotswold District Council

Cotswold District Council is looking for temporary staff for election days, working 7.30am until 10pm, at polling stations and at the count. Pay is £180 to £250 per day, plus fees for attending training. For more information, please call Katrina Keylock on 01285 623227, or use the button below to email the electoral services department. EMAIL elections@cotswold.gov.uk

Ethical shopping at affordable prices

Do you want to join Avening's new Organic Essential Buying Group? Essential Trading is a workers' cooperative specialising in vegetarian & vegan wholefoods. Avening residents can now shop ethically in a more affordable way. Buying as a group reduces costs, cuts food miles and lessens wasteful packaging and processing. There's also the satisfaction of being involved in the local community! Orders will be placed monthly and delivered to Avening on a Tuesday.

If you would like to join our buying group, or are interested but want to find out more, email Angela at angela.caroline.smith@hotmail.co.uk

<https://www.essential-trading.coop/services-deliveries/community-food-groups/>

Congratulations!



Sending huge congratulations to Mr and Mrs Brian Carter who recently celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary. Their large family of 6 children, 16 grandchildren, and 27 great-grandchildren, the youngest being just a few weeks old, send them lots of love on this milestone celebration. xxxxx !

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Puzzle Corner

2	9		7	4	3	5		
		3	1	2				
	7	4					3	
	1		5			8		7
	3	5	4		1	6	9	
6		8			2		1	
	2					7	8	
				1	8	4		
		6	2	9	7		5	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 on page 37

In April 2024 Cotswold District Council determined that an application to convert the Queen Matilda Inn, Avening into a residential property should NOT be supported.

Have your say on the possible future of this local pub.

Scan the QR code below for instant access to a 5 minute survey on how you see the Matilda operating as a valued community asset.

The wider the reach of the survey, the better the pub can hone its potential for villagers, visitors and friends alike - share far and wide to **spread the word** and give Avening the greatest possible chance of retaining the pub.



SCAN FOR SURVEY



Sid

I've just woken up after quite a long sleep all through the winter. I'm not at all sure where I did sleep but sometimes it was quite scary because I thought I was really safe under a big pile of dead leaves until one day somebody came along with a big rake and started moving the leaves into an even bigger pile and then lots of cardboard boxes and branches of trees got heaped on top. I had, of course, been fast asleep and had felt very warm and dry and cosy but when I felt the rake moving everything around I got a bit scared and then I got even more scared when I began to smell burning and realised my home was about to be burnt down.

So I thought I'd better wake up properly and move on, which I did, but when you've been asleep for a few months it takes a bit of time to adjust to everything and I must admit I felt a bit wobbly and didn't seem to be able to focus very well on anything. I don't really remember too much about where I wandered off to but I think I must have gone on to a road because a very kind lady picked me up and put me back onto the grass. Then she came back about five minutes later, picked me up, put me in a cardboard box and drove me to a nearby garden. She was very kind and carefully put me down in some soft leaves and grass and got a little bowl of water for me but I wasn't really thirsty or hungry - just a bit confused and disorientated. Didn't feel that great and couldn't stop going round and round in circles.

Then, a little while later, another lady who I think owned the garden because she called to her yellow dog to leave me alone (thank goodness because it was looking rather interested in me) picked me up, put me in the box, carried me to her car and drove me to another house where the lady and gentleman put me on their lawn and tried to give me some food which I didn't want. I kept falling off a little wall because I really couldn't see properly where I was and began to feel dizzy. That lady then put me back in the box and drove me somewhere not too far away to the place where I am now staying.

I'm not really too sure exactly where I am but I think it's a sort of hospital for injured wild animals and I could see there were quite a lot of hedgehogs there and I did hear someone called Debbie who seems to be in charge of us all say that I had ben suffering from concussion, whatever that is, but that's probably why I kept going round in circles and falling over.

Today I feel much better and I've made some lovely friends who, like me, were rescued by kind people. I think I'm a very lucky little hedgehog not to have been run over by those



horrid, noisy machines with four wheels that drive very fast and squash you flat when all you're trying to do is cross the road.

I never really had a name until now but I've just been told it's Sid.

So I would like to say thank you to everyone who has made it possible for me to go on living safely in the country.

With love from Sid (with help from Ann Tarlton)



Avening Playgroup

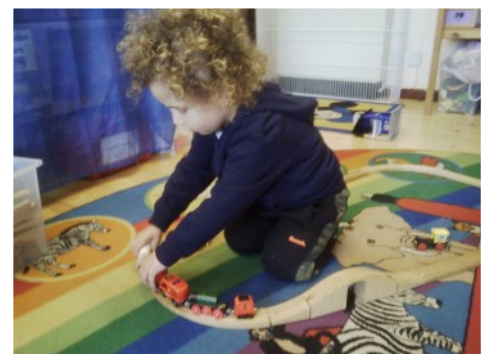
We cannot believe it is May already! The time is really going fast, so as soon as the children returned after the Easter holidays, they planted some bean seeds, with the help of Louise. We all talked about how the beans will grow and what they need to grow. We read the story: "Jack and The Beanstalk" and acted it out with visuals and the children.



We have also looked at numbers and counted lots of things, starting with the number of children at playgroup and the number of letters in a word. We rolled the dice, counted the dots, found the corresponding number and jumped or clapped the correct number of times. The children made numbers out of playdough, traced over numerals, played number games and did number puzzles. They also took part in a number hunt.

Over the last couple of weeks, the children have thoroughly enjoyed playing with the Brio train track and the playdough.

We have looked again at the sounds 's' and 'a', and are starting to look at 't'. The children have been taking part in lots of Letters and Sounds activities, such as singing, clapping, describing and listening.



If you would like to register your child at Avening Playgroup, please call Angie on 01453 832695 or email aveningplaygroup@gmail.com to put their names down and to book a time to have a look around the setting. We are open mornings during term time.

Angie Heslop

A word from our Chair:

We at Avening Playgroup are coming to you for help. This past year has been very tough financially, despite receiving various local grants and donations. We find ourselves in a place where we need to be proactive in advertising to increase attendance, and raising more funds so that we can avoid the very real possibility of closing down. Avening Playgroup is such an asset to our beautiful village, and we absolutely do not want to see it shut for lack of funds. We would be so appreciative if you could share our ad (see opposite) far and wide; getting more children to attend the setting is our top priority!

As part of our plan, we have set up a GoFundMe page for the playgroup. The link is <https://gofund.me/5035ebcf> and any donations we receive in supporting the playgroup are greatly appreciated.

If you have any other ideas or suggestions, please email aveningplaygroup.chair@gmail.com to get in touch with our Chair, Krista Jones.

Looking for a Playgroup?

Please phone or email for more information!

Open 5 days a week between 9.15 and 12.15, with lunch clubs and extended hours available on some days dependant on numbers

Fully qualified permanent staff

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PATA Member



AVENING PLAYGROUP

Hope to see you soon!!!

The Sunground, Avening, Tetbury, Gloucestershire GL8 8NW

Tel: 01453 832695

Email: aveningplaygroup@gmail.com

Website: www.aveningplaygroup.co.uk

Charity Registration number: 900618



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When a diagnosis changes everything Longfield Hospice is there for the patient, family and loved ones. If you would like to find out more please visit www.longfield.org.uk.

As a local hospice charity, we are incredibly grateful to everyone who supports our work. Their support means that last year we supported 1,633 patients and their loved ones with our services.

Why not support us by going to one of these amazing events?

11 May Cappella Nova Bath Chamber Choir celebrates the music of the Elizabethan ages at Tetbury Goods Shed Arts Centre 0333 666 4466

25th May The Hill & Valley Singers & Guests present 'From Bach to Bacharach' at Cirencester Baptists Church 01285 720403

25th May at Tetbury Choir present A Life in Song at Minchinhampton Church and tickets from longfield.org.uk/event/tetbury-choir/

26th May Frampton-on-Severn, Gloucestershire Open Gardens 1.30pm to 5.00pm

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Alison Hodges, BSC(Hons) MSc PGCE

**Advance Notice of the
National and International World Famous
Annual Avening Art Exhibition 2024**



To be held in Avening Church on Sunday 9th June, 1.30-4.30pm, Admission 50p per person.

A full exhibition of photographs, paintings, drawings and craftwork!

An opportunity to sketch live models chosen from the village!

Bring a sketchbook and pencil (and an eraser) or just watch! Comfortable seating provided.

(Notice to exhibitors: bring your contributions to the Church from 2pm Thursday 6th June and from

2pm to 4pm on Saturday 8th June. There is no charge for submitting exhibits).

For more information please contact George Buchanan at buchanan.pg@gmail.com

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Avening School

Diving into the Summer Term

After a busy end to the spring term with a very special World Book Day celebration and our annual School Talent Show to see us into the Easter holidays, we have returned full of energy ready for the summer term. Already, the school calendar is full of visits, trips and activities.

It has been a sporty start to the term with The Eagles and Kestrels classes (Reception and Y1/2) taking part in a multi-skills event at SWR school, where they had the opportunity to try a variety of different sports. Meanwhile, the Hawks class (Y3/4) have been enjoying daily swimming lessons making great progress with their water confidence. Further on during this term, there is a dodgeball tournament and tennis festival for KS2 pupils. The afterschool clubs on offer this term include cricket, STEM, drama and recorder club.



As the weather improves, we are working on developing children's leadership skills and good mental health through our positive playtimes. We have Year 6 children, our Helping Hands, who are supporting children with solving any playtime problems, as well as Year 4 Wellbeing Leaders who are leading play activities structured around the Five Ways to Wellbeing: connecting with others, being active, learning, giving and taking notice. We have den-making, music, cricket, mindfulness cards, Jenga, Lego and dressing-up amongst some of the things that the children can choose to do and lots of fun is being had all round. Our Year 5 children, in their roles as 'mini-police', are keeping everyone safe – tidying the lunch hall and ensuring that our corridor is calm and safe at the end of lunchtime.

Thanks to a very generous donation from a former family of the school, we have a fantastic selection of brand new books for all age groups throughout the school, which have been shared amongst their classroom libraries and the main school library, ready to be taken out on loan at Friday afternoon library time.

There is plenty of activity in our school garden with weekly forest school lessons as well as our Fledgling sessions for pre-school children and their grown-ups every Friday 2-3pm. If you are interested in coming along to Fledglings, please contact the school office for more information.

Alex Adcock

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

Visit Avening!

As part of their English studies, the children in the Owls Class (years 5 and 6) recently wrote about why people should visit Avening. We promised their teacher, Mrs Stafford, that we would publish the best articles in the magazine, so she chose two from each year group. She said “The children were really excited at the prospect of being published in the magazine and have produced some really excellent pieces of work - including all of the grammar we have been learning about, along with uplevelling their sentence structures and vocab choices. They have used information I found on the website about Avening, along with their own knowledge of the village - and needless to say - they are very proud of the village they live in.”

Here is the first of four chosen by Mrs Stafford, written by Oscar O in year 5:

Visit Avening

A small village – A big welcome

Are you tired of city life and need a break? Imagine a place where the air is fresh, where the excited shouts of children carry for miles, where you're stress free and can relax. Well that's a real place and it's called Avening.

The Park

Avening playing field is a great open space with woods, a play park and a football pitch. You might even want to bring your furry friends. Maybe build dens in the woods or have a great football match with your friends. You could have a go on the slide or the zip wire.

The Oldest Village

Avening is the oldest village in Gloucestershire – hidden in a wooded valley – Avening is steeped in history. Its church is the only one in England founded and dedicated by an English queen! The church offers regular Sunday services, weddings, funerals and christenings. The pupils also go there to sing hymns at Christmas and learn about Jesus at Easter and sometimes Rev. Tracey comes to us.

The School

Our school is a beautiful Victorian building with around 110 pupils attending and run by our lovely headteacher Mrs Rushton – it's a wonderful place to learn. The village memorial hall also doubles as a lunch hall for the students where our legendary Kelly the cook makes our wonderful hot lunches and her famous shortbread. We also have our famous world book day - run by our incredible librarian Ms Adcock – where we choose a theme and dress up as characters from books. Maybe if you took a stroll around the village, you might catch a glimpse of students working.

So come to Avening and enjoy our amazing park, say a prayer in our church and see the joyful kids smiling in their wonderful school. So will you come to Avening and have the adventure of a lifetime?

Avening Community Café

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

Quote received...“the Café is a great asset to Avening”

At the beginning of April we welcomed gifted local musicians Tom Fryer, Brian Jones and Amanda Saunders whose wonderful performance was enjoyed by all including our younger members.



The two lucky winners of our Easter egg raffle were Helen and Angela and this raised £57 for our charities. The Grand National Sweepstake winners were 1st Peter, 2nd Derek, 3rd Brenda and 4th Maura – well done.

The Café has supported various local charities over the years and recently sought nominations for its 2024 charities. The committee agreed to support Avening Playgroup and Longfield Community Hospice this year and was able to donate £200 to each group from various fund raising events. Krista Jones accepted a cheque on behalf of the Playgroup on 16 April.

It is always pleasing to welcome new faces to the Café and we were happy to have a group of cyclists from Wotton-Under-Edge call by who were very appreciative of a well-earned break for coffee and cakes.

Our bi-annual litter pick will be on 4th June. Please come along to help Keep Avening Tidy. Bags and litter pickers provided, just bring gloves. A free hot drink afterwards for all those participating.

We welcome everyone to our SATURDAY CAFÉ on 18 May from 10 to 12. This Café will also host the Annual Parish Meeting which will be held in the lounge bar from 10am – come along to meet members of the Parish Council and share ideas for the village whilst enjoying coffee and cake!

May Highlights / Café themes

7th **May Day**

14th Coffee & Cakes

18th **SATURDAY Café** 10-12

Annual Parish Meeting in Lounge bar from 10 am, all welcome – Refreshments provided

21st **Art with Mark** (£3 each, all materials supplied)

National Bee Day

28th **Half Term** - Free drinks for children

4th June **Litter Pick** – meet 9:30 at Social Club

John Hetterley, for Avening Community Cafe

AVENINGCINEMA CLUB



WEDNESDAY 29th MAY

Doors open 7 pm, Film starts 7.30 pm

AVENING MEMORIAL HALL

Admission £5

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

Contact us at aveningcinemaclub@gmail.com

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

Would you like to help run the Cinema Club?

We are looking for someone new to help run the club, if you would like to get involved please do get in touch aveningcinemaclub@gmail.com

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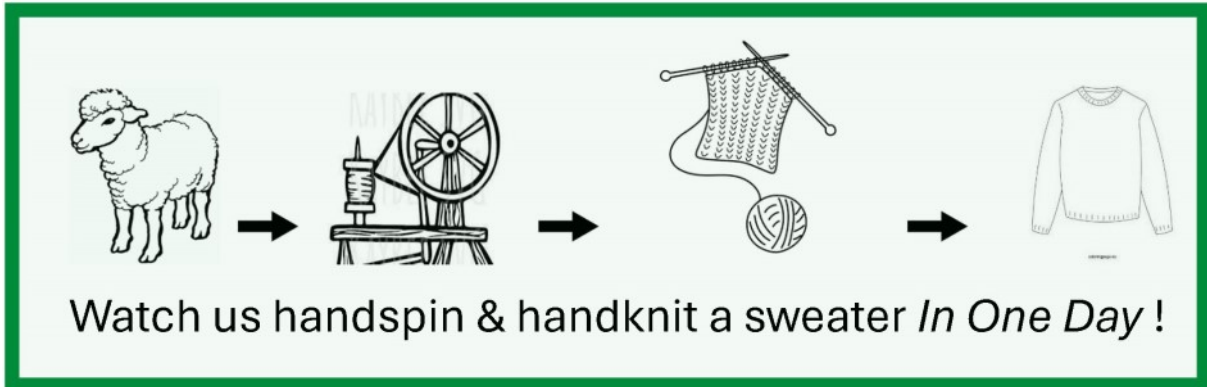
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Avening WI

A big thank you to all those who came along to support our recent Village Quiz which has raised a brilliant profit of £258.00. This will be donated to Avening Primary School, who intend to use it to update the class libraries and to help provide a book for each child starting school. Fourteen teams took part in a very close contest and tackled Shirley's latest challenging and wide-ranging questions. Shirley and family have organised the quizzes for a number of years and always provide a fun evening's entertainment. Her daughter, Alison, did a great job as quizmaster and our members offered support as markers and scorers, in addition to collecting money and question sheets, selling raffle tickets and helping with the buffet. Thanks also go to Derrick who set up the tables and chairs for us at the Social Club.



Our speaker for April was Dorothy Cook who gave an entertaining talk about her career as a



midwife, during which she has delivered about three and a half thousand babies all over the world. She had us laughing out loud at some of the situations, but also told us more sobering tales of the suffering of women in some cultures.

Our May meeting will take place on Thursday 9th May at 7.30 pm and our speaker will be Susan Parslow with an illustrated talk entitled 'Windsor Castle - from fortress to Royal residence, a short history of the oldest and largest inhabited castle in the world.' Susan is a very good speaker and is a Blue Badge Holder Guide for several places in the south of England. She is also taking us on a walking tour of Bath as a follow up to another of her talks.

Also in May, on Saturday 25th, Avening WI will be travelling to Westminster Abbey for our long awaited Purcell Club visit - a musical tour of the Abbey following a meal in the Cellarium café. We have been on the waiting list for three years as these visits are highly sought after.

Visitors and prospective new members are always welcome at our meetings, which take place in the Memorial Hall in Avening High Street on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7.30 pm.

For more information please contact our secretary Helen on aveningwi@gmail.com or check our website www.aveningwi.wordpress.com or our Facebook page Avening WI

Helen Haiselden

Retreat at Brownhill Monastery. Fri 26 & Sat 27 July 2024 –Two whole days to relax, unwind and rediscover the potential for spiritual transformation through shared silence, personal space, and regular times of prayer with meditation. Suppose you would like to come on our parish retreat, to be conducted by Fr John Ansell. In that case, you can register your interest by contacting clergy, or by leaving a message, including your contact details, with Vicki in the office at admin@minchchurch.org.uk 01453 889004.

Fr John will be holding a meeting for all those who might be interested on Monday evening June 17th, in Avening Church.



Avening Youth Club



CONTACT INFO@THEDOOR.ORG.UK TO FIND OUT MORE

The Youth Club is held every Tuesday in term time **6.30-8pm** in the Memorial Hall.

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

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MAY HIGHLIGHTS AT TETBURY GOODS SHED

- May 4th** **Moscow Drugs Club Returns:** elements of 1930's Berlin Cabaret, Hot Club de France, Nuevo Tango & Gypsy Campfire meet. Combining their original material with songs by Jaques Brel, Leonard Cohen, Tom Waits & Eartha Kitt, it's a musical experience! 7.30 Tickets £10-15.
- May 11th** **Gloriana – Cappella Nova Chamber Choir:** Music sacred and profane from the eras of Elizabeth 1 and Elizabeth 2 from Byrd and Tallis to Britten and Vaughan Williams. Proceeds to Longfield Community Hospice. 7.30 Tickets £12-£15.
- May 18th** **Jazz Defenders:** Led by one of the UK's most formidable jazz pianists, George Cooper, the group are born from a deep love of Blue Note jazz, drawing on a wealth of inspiration to craft their own raw and vibrant compositions. 7.30 Tickets: 12.50-£16.50
- May 19** **The Bookshop Band:** In collaboration with the award-winning Bath bookshop, Mr B's Emporium of Reading Delights, Ivor Novello-nominated composers Beth Porter and Ben Please write songs inspired by the books of the visiting authors including Margaret Atwood and Philip Pullman

For more details of our other events including film, talks, exhibitions, and afternoon tea concerts and to book tickets visit our website: www.shed-arts.co.uk

Avening Church of England Education Fund (ACEEF)



The trustees of ACEEF have limited funds available to assist Avening residents under 25 with their education. These grants are intended to help ensure that young people in the village are not deprived of the opportunity to receive good education suiting their aptitudes and abilities. This may mean financial help towards travel costs, books and equipment or uniform and work wear.

If you or your children are in need of such support, please request an application form by phoning 01453 833016 or emailing buchanan.el@gmail.com.



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

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Avening Parish Council



Playing Fields Update

Cllr Hetterley said he had repaired the slats on the playpark fence in preparation for the ROSPA inspection. The top gate needs repair. Mr Mulligan said he will get a quote for a new gate. The spring installed on the bottom gate needs to have a rubber guard. The council are looking into repairing the football pitch. There is a small tree overhanging the top path that needs to be removed.

Memorial Hall Update

In addition to the installation of a new heating system and smart meters, the toilets have been refitted with new taps and water heaters and the Trustees have agreed to proceed with refurbishing the roof over the toilets.

The smart meters will be installed on 27th March.

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

New Planning Applications

24/00722/REM: Tetbury Hill House Tetbury Hill. Variation of condition 1 (approved plans) of permission 20/02653/REM: reserved Matters pursuant to outline permission 19/00725/OUT (Outline application for the construction of two dwellings with access, layout and scale to be determined) to include details relating to appearance and landscaping

Decisions Notices

24/00460/FUL: 44 Sandford Leaze. Conversion of existing garage and insertion of replacement dormer windows to the front and rear – Permitted

24/00336/FUL: Quietways West End. Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) to increase the width of rear first floor gable of planning permission 23/02645/FUL. Erection of a two-storey side extension – Permitted

23/03925/TCONR: 10 Sandford Leaze. Mature oak tree (*quercus robur*) to the rear garden - Removal of dead wood to inner canopy and also thinning of 20%. – Permitted

23/03893/CLEUD: 48 High Street. Certificate of Lawful Use or Development under Section 192 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the confirmation of residential use of No.46 High Street Avening as part of No.48 High Street - Permitted.

Annual Parish Meeting

The Parish Council will be holding the Annual Parish Meeting on Saturday 18th May 10 – 12. Please join us for coffee and cake with a presentation about affordable housing from Tim Gwilliam from GRCC. James Gray MP will be in attendance to answer questions on Parliamentary Procedures in Westminster. Tony Slater your local District Councillor will be available to answer more local concerns.

Police Report

The Police report showed from 1st Jan 2024 – 7 April 2024 there had been 3 reports of violence, 2 criminal damage and 1 drugs.

Neighbourhood Policing Team: Police Seargent Garrett Gloyn; PC Chris Pritchard;
PCSO Edmund Maina
101@gloucestershire.police.uk

Potholes

Report potholes directly to Highways on 08000 514514 or at the GCC Report It website <https://fixmystreet.gloucestershire.gov.uk>

Date of next meeting: Monday 8th May 2024 at 7pm.

The Agenda and Minutes of the last parish council can be viewed at www.avening-pc.gov.uk The Parish Clerk can be contacted via email at: parishclerk@avening-pc.gov.uk

Puzzle Answers

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

Avening Art Group



The Avening Art Group is an informal friendly group that meets weekly at Avening Park Farm (Celia’s) on Wednesdays from 10 to 12. All budding artists are welcome to attend – further information available from the Community Cafe. There is also fortnightly tuition from Mark Kelland. We look forward to seeing you.



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Regular Activities in the Villages

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

Event	Day	Time	Where	Contact
Community Café	Tuesday	9.00am - 12.00pm	Social Club	Gill Adams 07826 291759
Mobile Post Office	Tuesday	9.30am - 11.30pm	Social Club car park	
Cherington PC	Tuesday bi-monthly	6.00pm	Cherington Village hall	Richard Smith 07884 265117
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
Avening Churchyard tidy up	Wednesday	6.00 - 7.00pm	Holy Cross churchyard	Churchwardens
Avening Art Group	Wednesday	10.00 – 12.00	Avening Park Farm	Community Café
Avening PC	2nd Wednesday each month	7.30pm	Memorial Hall	Shani Baker 07415 039234
Avening Cinema Club	Last Wednesday each month	7.30pm	Memorial Hall	avening Cinemaclub@gmail.com
Avening church bell ringing	Wednesday	8.00-9.00pm	Church bell tower	Andrew Lelliott Aslelliott37@gmail.com
Avening W.I.	2nd Thursday each month	7.30pm	Social Club/ Memorial Hall	Liz 01453 833803
Fledglings for pre-schoolers	Fridays during term time	2.00 - 3.00pm	School Garden	Avening School
Winter Fun Skittles	Friday	7.30	Social Club	
Charity Quiz	1st Saturday each month	8.00pm	The Bell	
Avening Singers	Sunday	4.00pm	tba	Derrick Pierce 01453 835090



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