

The Villager

A Magazine for Avening,
Cherington and Nags Head

June 2024

editors@villagermag.online

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June 2024

Welcome to a bumper edition of The Villager, jam-packed with things you have all been up to and with other events ahead of you this summer. Especially notable is the Fete weekend, which also includes the Art Show and on the Friday before, the 'Sounds of Summer' celebration. And in Cherington they are gearing up for the famous Cherington Show, which is sure to be as good as it always is.

As you will note from an advert in the magazine, we are looking for a new co-editor to join the team. Sadly, Julia has decided to step down due to work commitments, and Jane and Derrick would like to thank her very much for her valuable contribution over the last year or so. Having several co-editors spreads the load and enables us to work on pulling together the magazine at a more leisurely pace, so if you feel that you might be interested in learning more about it, do let us know. It is very satisfying to produce something like this and to know that you are doing something for the good of your neighbours.

Thanks for all the photos and information which have come in and keep sending us your stories.

The Villager Editors

The Villager Magazine

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Photographs in The Villager Magazine

Many thanks to the **Café rug-makers** for this picture of their latest piece of work. (More details on page 28) Please keep sending us your photographs, especially since all the images will be in colour in the downloadable version of the Magazine.

editors@villagermag.online

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

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VILLAGE & AREA WEB SITES

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

Cherington Parish Council: cheringtonpc.org.uk.

Cherington Village: www.cheringtonvillage.co.uk

Cotswold District Council: www.cotswold.gov.uk

Facebook: Avening Instagram: #aveningvillage

Dates for your Diary

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

Date	Event	Location	Time
Saturday 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 23rd June	Avening Bear Hunt	Starts at Avening Memorial Hall	12 noon—3pm
Wednesday 26th June	Avening Cinema Club Wicked Little Letters	Avening Memorial Hall	7.30pm
Friday 12th July	School Summer Fete	Avening School	tba
Sunday 28th July	Cherington Show	Cherington	

PETER SAVAGE

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AN EVENING FETE



Sunday 9th June 2.00-4.30

Avening and Cherington Churches

It's Springtime and the gardens are blooming. This month, after Pentecost and Trinity Sundays, the altar cloths and vestments in the church will be Green to signify the growth of the early Church. The teachings and examples of Jesus in the readings make this an inspiring season.

There is a lot going on in the community, too, starting with the Fete and Art Exhibition on June 9th! Everything opens at 2 o'clock on that day. Duck Races, Plants, Tombola and Cakes outside, plus models posing for the artists at the Art Show. There will be old favourites with books and bric-à-brac, and a couple of surprise stands. And the Dog Show. Can't wait to see you there!!

At 7pm on June 17th there will be a meeting in Avening Church, where John Ansell will describe the Retreat taking place locally on Friday and Saturday, July 26-27th. We know last month we advertised a later time, but things have changed—7pm is easier for most of us. Do consider coming to the meeting, even if you do not plan to take part in the retreat. There is no commitment. If you do plan to Retreat in July, come along to find out more.

The Retreat will finish on the day before the Cherington Show. That sounds like an awesome weekend, resetting our friendship with God and then with friends at the Show.

Behind the scenes, we are organising ourselves for Natalie, our new priest. In mid July, she will be licensed to our parish (along with Cherington and Amberley) at Amberley church. Although she will be living in Amberley, she will be working just as much with us in Avening and Cherington and we are looking forward to her friendly care in the villages.

Elizabeth and Stephanie, Church Wardens

“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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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.



Church Services

Date	Holy Cross, Avening	St. Nicholas, Cherington
2 nd June 10.00am	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion
9 th June	NO SERVICE AVENING FETE	NO SERVICE
16 th June 10.00am	Holy Communion	Holy Communion
23 rd June 10.00am	Holy Communion	NO SERVICE
30 th June 10.00am	NO SERVICE Please either join Cherington or Minchinhampton	Holy Communion
7 th July 10.00am	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion

Letter from Chairman of Avening Parish Council



Our Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 8th May was our Annual General Meeting. The main business to be conducted was the re-election of councillors for the coming year. Contrary to recent elections around the country, we are completely non-political, thank goodness! It was decided the current positions remain as they are, with a few alterations of responsibility. So the list of councillors and their dedicated responsibilities are as follows:-

Patrick Mulligan:	Chairman, and support where needed with the workload of other members
Richard King:	Vice Chairman, Monitoring Planning applications, Bio- Diversity Policy and Playing Field
John Hettersley:	Treasurer / Finance, Grant Applications, Playing Field
Stephanie Hamilton:	Church Liaison, Village Defibrillators
Gill Parsons:	Country Footpaths, Our longest serving member with immense knowledge of the village
Christine Howell:	Playing Field, and W.I. liaison
David Bendall:	Overseeing the Memorial Hall and user bookings
James Mills:	Our newest member – Playing Field development
Tony Slater:	Our own C.D.C. Councillor and past Chairman
Shani Baker:	Parish Clerk; Invaluable for her experience, advice and organisation.

All the individual telephone contact details are on the village website.

I tend to view the Parish Council responsibilities as those similar to running a large household. Budgeting, organising and instigating work or maintenance as needed; listening to villagers and helping where we can, and generally keeping a finger on the pulse of the village. This is much more effective if villagers talk to us, so please either occasionally attend monthly meetings or make a note that next year's Annual Meeting will be around the same time of year.

The Annual Avening Village Parish Meeting was held in the Social Club on Saturday 18th May. Sadly there were only a few parishioners who attended. This was despite the provision of free tea, coffee and cakes, which we provided as an extra incentive over the previous year when we had a similarly poor turnout. The annual meeting gives the chance to hear a resume of what's been happening through the year; but most importantly, it's also an opportunity for villagers to air their views and opinions to the Parish Council.

We had a guest Speaker, Mr Tim Gwilliam who gave an interesting presentation and insight to Affordable Housing in the region. Tim's role is to identify opportunities and local housing needs in a wide area around Gloucestershire and nearby counties.

‘Top line’ overview of our work during 2023/24 would include the following:-

With the restrictive times during Covid now receding into the past, we were able to concentrate on firming up some plans for the near future as well as chasing any sources of money that might be available through local or government grants.

Playing Field – Always an ever-present item on the monthly agendas. We are waiting for some firm quotes for the laying of a new footpath around the perimeter of the field. This will make it easier for everyone to access the playing field and the orchard area. The work is likely to be carried out late August / early September; before the onset of winter and late enough to allow the field to be enjoyed by children through the summer holidays.

Goal mouth areas – James Mills has gathered in some promises of help from a number of dads to help with filling in the large dips in the goal mouths.

Avening Playschool – The Parish Council has granted a donation of £2,000 towards maintaining the viability of this precious facility. The playschool is a very important element in the long term survival of the Junior School. If children are forced to use other playschools in Nailsworth or Tetbury, it is likely they will follow their friends in joining junior schools outside Avening.

The Memorial Hall – The new heating system continues to get good reviews and feedback from the various user groups. Upgrades to the toilets and reroofing of these areas are a priority and will be scheduled as soon as builders and materials suppliers can be co-ordinated. A new water heater and more user friendly taps have already been installed. Plans to lay a Badminton court in the main hall are also on the agenda – this will give another option to users.

Best wishes to everyone.

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

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AVENING FETE RAFFLE

Prizes include

1st Prize £300.00 2nd Prize £100.00

Afternoon tea for 2 at the Ivy, Cheltenham - £50.00 Garden voucher

Other prizes include

Prosecco, Hampers, Chocolates & more

To be drawn at the fete on 9th June at 4.15pm

Tickets available on the day or from Elizabeth Buchanan at the Café,
Stephanie Hamilton at Church or PCC members

District Councillor's Report



CDC: This round of parish and CDC meetings have mostly been of the Annual General (AGM) variety, and therefore largely procedural – choosing/confirming officials and confirming policies etc. This has meant that I haven't been able to ask my planned questions relating to Publica at full council, but instead I have written to the Chief Executive to chase the promised programme information (especially costs) for the transition back to CDC. There is also a full council briefing on the subject later this month, so hopefully I will have more detail in my next report. I also asked why there was so much colour printing of internal documents at CDC – there are large savings to be made for B/W prints and reducing print generally.

Overview & Scrutiny reviewed actions relating to the 'Ecological Emergency update' (see also below), and adoption of the 'Asset Management Strategy'. Both were noted.

Value for money? A resident contacted me recently, and as part of a wider discussion asked if I considered the services he received gave value for money for his council tax. He lives in a rural area, as most people in my ward do, and to put his question into context his tax bill is £300 a month which is a third of his state pension. However, what does he get; no mains sewage; no mains gas; no public transport; green bin collections at an additional (premium) price; and a dangerous road with constant, enormous commercial traffic running through it too fast on a road that's much too narrow. He could have added: pothole riddled roads; limited adult social care; a squeezed police force who may not respond to 'minor' crimes; poorly funded education; and little prospect of being looked after when you are old! Like most taxes, everyone shares the cost burden of services, even if they do not directly use them: for example education; the planning department, which isn't fully covered by planning application fees; there is a legal team, a call centre for service queries, an admin requirement to cover general processing, and of course a management overhead. The real question is: are these teams run as efficiently as possible and are they working effectively?

Having been in my District Councillor role for a year now, I have come into contact with many CDC officers, all of whom have struck me as very knowledgeable, dedicated, and hard working. However, I don't know if they are working effectively. Judging by the number of emails I receive covering information on 'training', conferences, recognition awards, and other non-essential subjects, I suspect the situation is as it is across most public bodies, and is that they aren't.

The situation isn't helped by the administration who have been in control for 5 years, in which time they have declared: A climate emergency; a housing emergency and an ecological emergency to name but three. I'm not debating if these things are appropriate for a district council to fix, but when everything is deemed an emergency, it is impossible to prioritise. The result is resources are stretched too thinly, and as evidenced by quarterly performance figures many of the workstreams are not achieving success. Just this week in O&S we were asked to support a request to prioritise

additional resource for the Ecological Emergency work – but is this to be ranked ahead of the Housing, or Climate Emergency work?? It puts the Cabinet and officers in an impossible situation, so is it best to focus limited resource and do one thing well, or be spread too thinly and fail to achieve anything tangible?

Roads continue to form a large section in my inbox. The public are correctly addressing concerns directly to GCC (they operate the road infrastructure) but are copying me to support my drive to get improvements.

In my own small claims case the court offered an arbitration service which I accepted, but GCC wish to go to court to defend themselves, notwithstanding the additional cost burden. I guess they are worried about the implications if they lose the case, where their only defence is the Highways Act inspection requirement. The case will probably go quiet for a while, while we await a court date.

River pollution: I am meeting with the area manager of Severn Trent at the end of May to discuss the Avening sewage issues. Locals may have noticed many tankers attending the site for a few weeks in early May – this was due to a failure of one of the processing units, which then required the waste to be taken away to avoid it going into the stream.

Councillor Tony Slater

Cotswold District Council, Representing Grumbolds Ash with Avening.

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

The Villager Magazine

is looking for an additional

Co-Editor

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Contact Jane (07812 137161 or Derrick (07762 702982)

or send a note to editors@villagemag.online to find out more about this opportunity

THIS IS YOUR MAGAZINE!



AVENING SINGERS

presents...

A Village concert

You're invited to an evening of live
entertainment on
7th June

Avening Memorial Hall 7pm

Entry is FREE, but please donate generously
to village charities and community
causes.

Evening includes light refreshments,
raffle and competitions.

Gilian's Poem of the Month

This very early memory has been a constant throughout my life. It is the very epitome of my happy rural childhood, flashing upon my inward eye in frequent unexpected moments, each time as vivid and fresh as on the day it happened.....

My Earliest Memory

On a sunny Sunday morning, beneath a blue June sky,
I sit in a nest of soft, sweet grass and watch the world go by.
In the meadow all around me grow wild flowers whose sweetest scent
Attracts bright butterflies and bees, which I watch in wonderment!
Nearby old Swift is grazing, her coat golden in the sun,
She is my kind and gentle friend, now her hunting days are done.
I hear bells ringing from the hill, echoing all around,
Calling the faithful ones to church, with their rich, melodic sound.
And all the while the cuckoo calls his two repeated notes,
Singing his song, which I love to hear, as from tree to tree he floats.
Meanwhile my brothers climb the trees surrounding our peaceful glade,
Scrambling and swinging ever higher in the dappled sun and shade.
Warm sun drops kisses on my face, soft breezes ruffle my hair,
And I hum a little tune to myself, I'm so happy to be there.
For today is extra special—it's my very own birthday!
It's a day that I always will recall, 'cause I'm three years old today.....

Gilian Bulmer-Davison



The Avening Jumble Trail

The weather was not great so instead of a trail around the village, the event moved indoors and became a trail around the Avening Memorial Hall — but was a great success none the less!

Puzzle Corner

		4		2			6	
	1		6	4		2		8
			3		8	5		
5		1	9		4		8	
	6						5	
	7		8		5	3		9
		3	7		1			
1		6		9	3		2	
	4			5		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 45

Celebrate the beginning of summer - and the Avening Fete weekend - by coming along to

Sounds of Summer

on Friday 7th June in the Memorial Hall

A FREE event featuring musicians from Avening and around including:

The Avening Silver Band

Children from Avening School

The Music Gang

Saxophone trio

Avening Singers

and much more

Tea, coffee, soft drinks, cakes and nibbles available

Raffle

Table top Quiz

PLEASE BRING CASH

Donations gratefully accepted, to go towards village charities.

Nailsworth Mills Bowls Club



The Bowling club celebrated its 100th birthday in May by playing Gloucester City, the first club they played, back in 1924. Unfortunately rain stopped play - but good fun was still had by all. Quite a few familiar Avening faces here!

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Alison Hodges, BSC(Hons) MSc PGCE

Joan Tubbs

23/02/1925-02/05/2024

Joan was born in 1925 in Alexandria to a family of Irish extraction - the first daughter of Harold and Helen Finney. By this time the family had a very successful cotton business and Joan was able to enjoy a happy childhood both in the United Kingdom and in Egypt. The family had a strong Catholic background and she went to St. Mary's, Ascot until the war intervened, when she joined her parents back in Egypt. Her war years were very eventful and equally social, involving with meetings with the Allied Forces in Alexandria at the various embassies.

When she left school she joined Gabriella Barker's dance troupe who performed for the Allied troops stationed in the desert and involved in the defence of Egypt which included El Alamein in late 1942. As a teenager, Joan went on to meet a number of extremely interesting people including Lawrence Durrell who wrote about many of her family's antics including one which involved Joan allowing a boat - on which there were many of the high-ranking Diplomatic staff enjoying themselves at a party on board - to drift down the Nile. The story is contained in the last chapter of Durrell's book "L'Esprit de Corps".

She had many potential suitors and had got engaged to one before finally meeting the man who would become her husband - namely Vincent Tubbs (known at Potts) in 1945. Joan joined the WRNS in the defence of Alexandria and led a very full life with parties on the one side interspersed with Luftwaffe bombardments on the other.

Potts and Joan then came to England to join Potts' family textile business in Gloucestershire - Tubbs, Lewis in Wotton-under-Edge - where things were extremely complicated owing to the Wartime Trust following the death of Sir Stanley Tubbs, Vincent's great-uncle, who had been running the business.

Joan and Vincent had two children - Christopher born in 1946 and Marguerite (Mardi) born in 1949.

Her early married years were spent on a very tight budget owing to the Trustees continued control over the family business. The Trust was finally broken up in 1965 and Joan and Potts went on, after a series of legal battles, to found Tubbs Elastics in 1969 as a successor to the original family business.

Joan worked very hard in this business, frequently accompanying Potts on international trips round Europe using her extensive knowledge of commercial French and Arabic which was, of course, extremely useful on the Continent and also with the principal suppliers of elastic thread, at the time, Dupont. This was run by an Arab called Saleem Ibrahim who became a great friend of the family. Life progressed, the business thrived and Joan was able to throw many parties and attend social business functions using her cheerful and capable skills.

She had a great number of friends and also became Planning Councillor for North Wiltshire - an office she held for a number of years.

She was instrumental in setting up a big American manufacturing company, Linolite, in

Malmesbury, allowing them a much-needed single-site for their factory, and was responsible for extending that site when it was sold to Dyson. Her efforts came to the notice of the Prime Minister at the time, Margaret Thatcher, who invited her to stand as a local Member of Parliament, a role she had to turn down due to her being Company Secretary to Tubbs Elastics. The family company continued to thrive and expanded to the USA where her daughter and son-in-law took on the American side of the business.

Sadly, Potts died in 2002 and Joan moved to Cherington where she led a very fulfilling life in retirement and made many friends in the village. She took up bridge and immersed herself in the village social calendar giving particular support, with her dog, to the annual Cherington Village Show selling dog biscuits (handmade by her) and helping with the Raffle. She was able to play an active role at home up to Easter 2024 with her dog by her side and, luckily, a wonderful carer for support after she broke her hip.

Above all, she enjoyed life to the full, her family playing a very important part in her life, with her beloved dog Cassie beside her and she was able to end her days in her own house in peace and with the friendship and support from her lovely friends in the village.

She will be sadly missed by her family scattered around the world and by her many friends.

To the end Joan's faith was very important to her. She maintained her Catholic religion and attended Church regularly throughout her life until her accident prevented her from travelling.

She was also a very caring person and when her old nursery nanny became too old to look after herself, Joan gave her a huge amount of care and help in the final years of nanny's life.

She was also very proud of the family's achievement of having The Oratory in London involved in providing funds for Cardinal Newman and resetting the Roman Catholic Church in England at the turn of the century.

She was indeed a remarkable woman.

May she rest in peace.

*Christopher and Jane Tubbs
Ann Tarlton*

**TONY'S CHARITY QUIZ NIGHTS
THE BELL, AVENING
1ST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH
£2 A PLAYER: A MAXIMUM OF 4 PLAYERS PER TEAM
ALL PROCEEDS TO THE COBALT APPEAL, CHELTENHAM**



Avening Playgroup

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

Planting seeds and growing plants: The children have planted runner beans in pots of soil. Some did not grow so we have now repeated the process by placing a bean in a pot with wet kitchen towel, with some success. The children are then taking their plants home to pot on.

Louise has helped the children to plant pumpkin and sunflower seeds which are all growing well. The children then planted these into the vegetable bed, after giving it a good weed and rake over. However, the snails/slugs seem to have taken a liking to them! Louise and the children have also planted potatoes and carrot seeds, so we are looking forward to seeing them grow.



Mark-making, Letters and Sounds: The children have been tracing over the letters in their names. They have been making marks in the gloop/sand with their fingers and lolly sticks, as well as lots of drawing and painting. They have used chalks to draw on the playground outside, as well as buckets full of water with paint brushes to paint the ground. We have also asked them to find different letters in their names.



As well as the pre reading activities we do, such as, singing, clapping, rhyming and listening games, we have played 'I spy with my little eye someone whose name begins with...'. We are currently looking at the sounds 't' for teacher and 'p' for parrot, using the letter sounds rather than the names.

As well as the water trough, which has been a big favourite recently, the children have enjoyed playing in the sand, dressing up, bringing us food from the home corner and taking turns to

play on the pink car.

As a charity we rely on a committee of volunteer parents who meet up about six times a year to ensure the day to day running of the playgroup and to organise fund raising events. In an effort to try and spread awareness and replenish our savings, we have made a GoFundMe page for the playgroup. We would appreciate you sharing it around and if you have any other ideas on how to raise funds for the playgroup, we would love to hear from you.

Our next event is on Sunday 9th June when we will be running the games stalls and bouncy



castle at the Avening Fete. Looking forward to seeing you there!

We have spaces left for the autumn term, so if you would like more information about the playgroup, please call us on 01453 832695 or email aveningplaygroup@gmail.com to arrange a visit. We are open weekday mornings during term time.

Angie Heslop



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permanent staff*

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and 12.15, with lunch clubs and
extended hours available on some
days dependant on numbers*

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PATA Member

Please phone or email for more information!

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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Hector's Paw-some Anticipation for the Cherington Show

Hello, everyone! I'm Hector, and I just can't contain my excitement about the upcoming Cherington Show. As a proud Sprocker, I thrive on adventure, and let me tell you, this year's show is shaping up to be one for the books!

I can already feel the buzz in the air as my Dad Henry and I prepare for our big day out. From the moment we set foot outside the house and head in to the village, I know that something special awaits us. The anticipation will be palpable as we make our way through the winding streets of our village, my tail wagging furiously with every step.

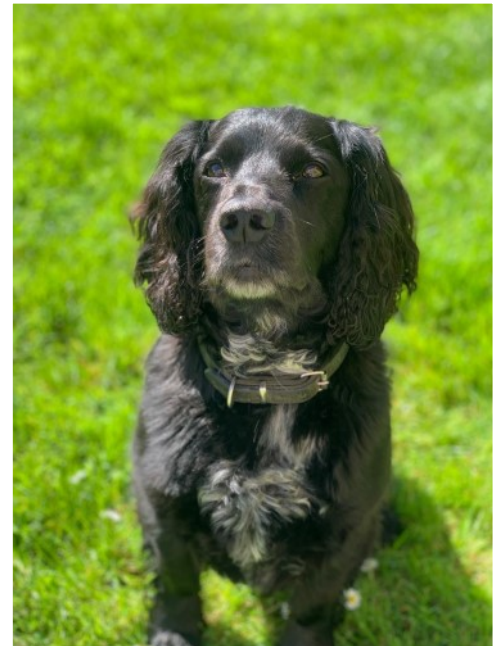
As we approach the showground, I will hardly contain my excitement. The sights, the sounds, the smells—it's all so exhilarating! I can't wait to explore the bustling stalls, meet new friends, and soak up the vibrant atmosphere of this beloved community event.

One thing I'm particularly looking forward to is the Fun Dog Show. I've been practicing my best tricks for weeks, and I can't wait to show off my skills alongside my fellow furry peers. With Henry by my side, cheering me on every step of the way, I know we're going to make a paw-some team!

And let's not forget about the delicious treats waiting to be devoured at the show. From mouthwatering burgers fresh off the grill to scrumptious ice cream treats to cool off on a hot summer's day, my taste buds are already tingling with anticipation. And don't even get me started on the Cake Stall - I've heard rumours of the most decadent delights just waiting to be sampled!

But perhaps what I'm most excited about is the chance to soak up the spirit of community and camaraderie that fills the air at the Cherington Show. From the laughter of children to the smiles of fellow villagers from Cherington, Nags Head and Avening, there's a sense of warmth and belonging that makes this event truly special.

As Henry and I make our way to the showground, my heart is brimming with anticipation for the adventures that await us. With each step, I can't help but feel grateful for the opportunity to be part of such a woof-tastic event. So here's to new adventures, cherished moments, and the wonderful community that makes events like the Cherington Show possible. Let the fun begin!



The Cherington Show is a village-wide event held on Sunday 28th July 2024 from 1pm to 5pm. Car parks are at both ends of the village, £3 per car. Follow us on Facebook for more updates! We look forward to seeing you there.



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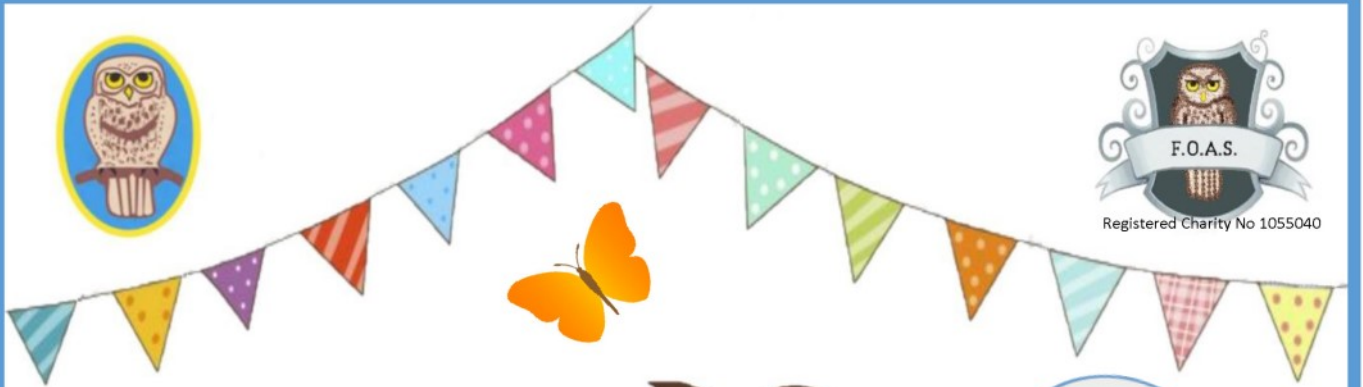


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www.pta-events.co.uk/aveningfoas

SAVE THE DATE!

CHERINGTON SHOW
SUNDAY 28TH JULY 2024



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The church looks beautiful at night when floodlit.

The church was floodlit on:

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Avening WI

Another fun-packed and enjoyable month for our members, starting with our historical walking tour of Bath with our excellent guide, Susan Parslow. Susan is a Blue Badge Guide for several locations in the south of England and has the ability to bring the history alive with anecdotes of the people of that time. In Bath we focussed mostly on the Regency era, starting at the Assembly Rooms and progressing through The Circus to The Royal Crescent. We followed the footsteps of a Jane



Austen heroine along a path at the rear of the houses and noticed the marked differences at the backs of the properties – ‘Fur coats and no knickers’ as someone remarked! We also heard about life for the servants of the time including the hard work of the sedan chair operators and the children used as household waste collectors. We followed our tour with a very good lunch at Hall and Woodhouse.



Our Skittles Team were victorious in our first round match against Winstone WI, which means that we are now in the GFWI County Cup Competition.

Our Book Group read *The Sealwoman's Gift* by Sally Magnusson – a rather surprising tale of a group of Icelandic people taken into slavery in Algiers, and followed this up with a discussion at The Felt Café in Brimscombe.

Our Theatre Group went to The Barn in Cirencester to see the award winning play ‘Constellations’ – a thought-provoking exploration of love, loss, free will and life’s ‘what-ifs’ delivered in short bursts of alternative outcomes by the impressive actors.

If you are looking for local friendship and interesting activities do come along to one of our meetings and you will receive a warm welcome. Our next monthly meeting is on Thursday 13th June at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall when we will be having a talk by Jackie Harris of the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust entitled ‘Why Wetlands Matter – the importance for people and wildlife.’

We will also be ‘on duty’ at the Community Café on Tuesday 4th June 9.30 to 12, and serving cream teas and cakes at the Church Fete on Sunday 9th June.

For more information check our Facebook page ‘AveningWI’ or email aveningwi@gmail.com

Rag Ruggers



*The rag ruggers with their finished rug (top)
and already working on their next creation.
(bottom)*

Avening Community Café rag ruggers celebrate completion of their latest wall hanging featuring the village church and churchyard. The scene was designed by Louise Watson who also embroidered the clock, church windows and the Holy Cross banner. With Michael Metcalfe's hard work and guidance a growing group of enthusiasts have enjoyed creating this beautiful scene.

This is the fifth rug we have made at the Café and is the most ambitious yet, building on experience gained from working on four previous rugs. The rugs are made by pushing short lengths of wool and fabric through a hessian backing using a latch hook.

The wall hanging will be on display in the Church on Sunday June 9th so please do come and take a look when you visit the church fete.

Gillian Lelliott

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.

D-Day 6th June 1944 and the Atlantic Wall

The 80th commemoration of Operation Overlord (Code-named Operation Neptune), or D-Day as it is popularly known, also highlights what many scholars of WW2 consider one of the 20th century extraordinary engineering feats, known as The Atlantic Wall.

The Atlantic Wall was built by Germany's national engineering company of the time, Operation Todt. They had already planned and constructed the first motorway network, and Adolf Hitler ordered this 2,000 mile "Wall" to be built in 1942 to stop any invasion by the Allied forces.

A massive feat of engineering, it stretched from Norway to the French/Spanish border and included the Channel Islands, which were under Germany's control at the time. In true terms it was not a wall as we recognise the term but a series of defensive armed concrete structures built at strategic points along the 2,000 mile coast line.



It consisted of a series of massive concrete "Blockhouses" which housed large guns, some taken off WW1 Battleships, some having a 20-mile range, but all pointing out to sea to repel any invasion. The Submarine pens, which were built for Hitler's "Wolfpack U Boats", were mainly on the Scandinavian coast, while the heavy guns were on the Northern French coast, especially around Calais.

Also around Calais and in The Netherlands were the sites of the V1 and V2 rockets which are seen by some to be part of the "wall" but were offensive, as opposed to defensive, sites. Also built in 1943, inside a hillside at a small village called Mimoyecques, near St. Omer, was the V3 Super Gun, sometimes called the London Gun as it was designed and built to fire just at London. This was known as a Multi-Charge gun, which was actually 25 guns and would fire an astonishing 3,000 shells per day. This gun was thankfully never fired; the Allied troops destroyed it in September 1944 during the advance after the D-Day landings.

The Normandy area was the second most heavily armed area of the Atlantic Wall but Hitler was convinced that any invasion by the Allies would be at Calais; history tells the rest. The Atlantic Wall at Normandy was only a partial success but its 2,000 mile construction is a reminder of why the D-Day landings took place when they did. It was certainly responsible for many casualties on that day and the days after.

For those who have an interest in engineering and logistics, there are sites and museums to visit and gaze in what The Atlantic Wall has to show.

For the writer who has spent 40 years visiting and even writing a book about this engineering feat, it is my favourite place to visit.

Tom Beardsell

Farm Life

It's finally starting to feel spring like! As I'm sat here writing this article, we've just had a few days of good weather and the fields are starting to dry up. The Avening valley is starting to look greener as the trees and hedges have started to leaf and our pastures are starting to shoot up with grass.

We recently had the first 'block' of calves born in 2024; so far, I can say that has gone very well. The investment in a camera positioned in the calving shed has paid dividends and has really helped keeping on top of what is happening, especially in the early hours of the morning when I've managed to catch a few cows giving birth.

So far, we have had several different breeds born: Hereford, Aberdeen Angus and rare-breed Gloucester. We've had three Gloucesters born, all female, so I'm pleased to say that these will be a great addition to the herd in the future.

Once the calves are up and about, it's important to get them out into the fields, not only because we are struggling with space, but because the mums need to be on the good level of nutrition that the spring grass will provide them. After calving the cows will reach maximum lactation and as a result need feed that is high in nutrition. Along with the grass we also feed sugar beet to provide them with energy. As the grass starts to grow quickly in the spring, its bulk increases rapidly whereas its mineral make up will stay the same. This means that in the early spring months, each bite the cow will take is slightly depleted in its mineral element, particularly magnesium. This depletion in magnesium, along with the extra draw on the mum in peak lactation, can cause a condition called 'grass staggers'. Fortunately, as long as it is caught early, an injection of magnesium can result in a speedy recovery. To try and mitigate this, we are providing the mums with magnesium mineral licks to allow them to get any supplementation they might need.



Now that it finally feels like summer is nearly here, we turn our attention to the fields and any work that needs to be carried out for them to grow grass or herbal ley. Our traditional permanent pasture fields take a little bit more work as these are more hardy and are used to over-winter most of our cattle. We use chain harrows to pull out any dead grass and level the field of its hoof marks and cattle manure. In areas that need repairing such as gateways and feed areas, we use seed that has fallen out of our hay

bales in the hay shed. We collect this seed and then sow it by hand, or if needs be, an electronic fan seeder. The last job is to use a flat roll to push the grass roots or seed back down into the soil. Our herbal leys need very little maintenance as we do not graze these during the winter months because most of the grasses and herbs are too delicate, so these are managed by grazing during the summer months instead.

We aim to take our first cut of herbal ley silage in the middle of May, so we are starting to get all the machinery needed to do this greased up and ready to go.

It's surprising how quick we can go from full winter mode to summer in space of what feels like a couple of weeks!

Sam Powell

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Visit Avening!

Here is the 2nd in the series of articles written by children in the Owls Class, about why they think their village is great! This is by Sebby (Y6)

Avening: A small village, but a big welcome!

Welcome: Welcome to Avening! Why don't you take a step into our wonderful village? Come on! So, let's start off by telling you why I think you should come. We have phenomenal wonders: a church designed by Queen Matilda herself; a splendid little school and a pub where you can get lunch.

School: We have a fantastic little school located right in the centre of Avening. It is a wonderful school with around one hundred and ten pupils and some very enjoyable and interactive teachers. We have very good facilities, like toilets and two playgrounds. Also, a church just to the right of our school – which we occasionally go to – and a lovely Reverend Tracey who runs it. We also have access to Avening Memorial Hall where they do our assemblies and some PE lessons. A lovely school, right?

Environment and Community:

Why don't you have a stroll around Avening, or go up to the park? Our scenery is immaculate with sheep and horses in never-ending fields, and glamorous insects and species all around. Some of our walks – maybe if you are lucky – you'll see a glimpse of Princess Anne's house, or maybe even see her on her horse. Our community is very strong by having a social club and a youth club. Also, we have breath-taking views. If you enjoy a little walk you could branch out to see Painswick or Westonbirt Arboretum. Come on!

History: Our small village surprisingly has some big history. We had, and have some incredibly famous people such as Queen Matilda, Princess Anne and King Charles just down the road in Tebury. The church, designed by Queen Matilda is still used today for important occasions and Sunday services. Avening is one of the biggest villages in Glos and the church was built in 1080. Isn't this convincing?

Avening – a lovely place: So after all of this, are you convinced? The history plus the landscape and the school is what makes our village unique and special. Come on – you can't just leave us blank! We are here ready for you! Hop in your car and you are on your way.

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.

Annual Avening Art Exhibition 2024

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



The Church will be closed and cleared on Monday 3rd June. The setting up for the Exhibition will commence on Tuesday 4th June.

Exhibits can be brought to the Church from 2pm on Thursday 6th June until 4.30pm. Exhibits can again be brought to the Church from 2pm to 4pm on Saturday 8th June, There is no charge for submitting exhibits

Private view will be on the evening of 8th June.

Exhibition opens to the public at 1.30pm on Sunday 9th June.

If you would like more information, please contact George Buchanan at buchanan.pg@gmail.com.

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Avening School

Positive Playtimes and Enjoying the Outdoors

We are really enjoying playtimes at Avening School. Not only has the sun been shining lately, but we make sure that our play is structured to focus on the **Five Ways to**

Wellbeing. We have areas to be active, quiet spaces to connect with our friends and to take notice, areas to learn and plenty of opportunities to give to others. There are 'loose parts' to encourage imaginative play, dressing up clothes, opportunities to build dens or lay in hammocks in the garden, as well as music for an impromptu lunchtime dance class. Our Year 6 Helping Hands are also on duty to support their younger peers with solving any problems, while our Year 4 Wellbeing Leaders make sure that everyone has something fun to do. Our volunteer Reading Buddies are also out once a week with a selection of books to read to their friends and our Year 5 helpers clean the tables and clear the chairs. Amazing team work all round!



Continuing with the wellbeing theme, our colleagues from **Young Minds Matter** mental health support have delivered an information session to parents about supporting children with worries and anxiety. We are also working hard towards a **Mental Health Award** to recognise all of the excellent work that the school does to support children in this area.

We have been out and about over the last few weeks. The reception children and children from Key Stage 1 have been to the Sir William Romney's School Multi-Skills festival. Meanwhile, some of our older pupils have been involved in a dodgeball competition, a netball tournament and a tennis festival. Our Year 5 Mini-Police have been litter-picking in and around the school and the Owls class (y5/6) are visiting Westonbirt Arboretum for some science work, including classification of species. During Earth Week, we were visited by geologists and petroleum engineers from SP Global who gave some fascinating talks about pollution, volcanoes, hydrocarbons, rocks, soils and carbon capture.

We are looking forward to the return of The Tetbury Woolsack Races on bank holiday Monday this year with an eager team of pupils representing the school. As we head into June, we have school sports morning to look forward to at the end of the month, when hopefully the sun will still be shining.

Our main and classroom libraries provide our pupils with a varied and exciting range of titles to choose from, both fiction and non-fiction. We update the selection available on a regular basis to make sure we are continuing to encourage the enthusiasm our pupils have for reading for pleasure. In order to update our book selection regularly and replace well-read titles, we rely on fundraising and donations. We are running a sponsor-a-book stall at our forthcoming school summer fete on the afternoon of Friday 12th July and invite parents, family members and members of the local community to purchase a

book from our stall which will then be put into the school library including a bookplate with their name on. If you are interested in sponsoring a book for our school library but are unable to make the summer fete, please contact the school office and they will refer you to Alex Adcock, School Librarian. Thank you for your support!

Don't forget, our Fledgling sessions for pre-school children and their grown-ups take place 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.

Back to Back Challenge - Sweater in a Day

Fastest team in Europe, fourth fastest in The World!

On a lovely sunny Sunday in May, Cotswold Woolgatherers met at the Museum in the Park and made a sweater, in a day.

The team of local women, including Elizabeth Oliver from Avening, with a sheep and shearer from Lydney, hand-sheared the sheep, spun its fleece and knitted an adult sized sweater in 11 hours and 17 minutes, raising over £1,300 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

The event was part of an International Back to Back challenge



where teams around the world compete to produce the same sweater in the fastest time. The fastest team in 2024 are in California, they completed in 7 hours 52 minutes; Cotswold Woolgatherers are the fourth fastest team in the world, and beat Luxembourg to be the fastest team in Europe.

Elizabeth then went to the Avening Community Café to demonstrate how to spin the fleece.



Avening Community Café

Quote received... "the Café is a great asset to Avening"

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

Thanks to those who attended our Saturday Café on 18 May, especially visitors and a group of walkers who were glad of a pit stop on their 11 mile walk.



We were pleased to welcome Elizabeth Oliver to the Café with her spinning wheel to demonstrate the art of turning fleece into yarn. This was in preparation for the International Back to Back Challenge to shear a sheep and turn into a sweater within 10 hours in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support (see page 35 for further details).

There was a special moment for our rag ruggers as they completed their latest project depicting Avening Church. This will be on display at the Art Exhibition in the Church on Sunday 9 June. Many thanks to Michael, Louise and the team.

We are very appreciative of our volunteers who help out on a Tuesday morning. If you have a few hours to spare, another pair of hands would be very welcome so please let us know if you would like to have a go.

The Café is pleased to support Avening Playgroup as one of its charities for 2024. The Playgroup has been running in Avening in one form or another for over 50 years but find themselves trying to boost numbers and raise funds to prevent the possibility of closing. This includes the launch of a GoFundMe page and we would encourage supporters to donate on line using the link <https://gofund.me/5035ebcf>

June Highlights / Café themes

- 4th **Café Litter Pick** – those taking part please meet 9:30 at the Café
WI Bacon Rolls today!
- 11th **National Iced Tea Day**
Bring a Friend or Neighbour and get a free drink
- 18th **Art with Mark** (£3 each, all materials supplied)
- 25th **Summer Solstice**

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Singalong in The Bell



On 25th April the Avening Singers led the customers in The Bell in a rowdy singalong of popular songs, ranging from Abba and the Beatles to more recent numbers. It was very busy, everyone seemed to have good laugh and hopefully we'll try it again some time. You have been warned!



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Avening Youth Club



The Youth Club which is organised by The Door, 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!**

A recent NHS survey showed that 1 in 6 young people experience poor mental health and research by University College London showed that those in lowest economic brackets are 4.5 times more likely to have poor mental health. At The Door we have seen this in real terms in our local communities as the number of young people with poor mental health continues to rise as a result of the cost of living crisis. Reduced spending power has put strain on households and families leading to missed opportunities, increased stress and more uncertainty about the future. This has led to a sustained rise in demand across all mental health services including The Door's mentoring programme, which at present cannot meet the level of need in our part of Gloucestershire.

Our amazing mentoring team matches young people aged 11-25 with a trusted adult either in person or over the phone, providing a safe space and non-judgemental listening ear. Mentors act as positive role models, meeting young people where they are at and journeying with them as they are empowered to move forwards in their lives. We know this service is life changing but, don't take our word for it. This is what young people with mentors say:

"The Door is helping me become more confident in myself. It has helped my physical and my mental wellbeing. It's made me, me." - Mentee

A key cost in the delivery of this vital work is the staff time needed to assess the needs of young people, sign post to the right support and match them with their volunteer mentor.

This May The Door is aiming to raise £5000 towards the cost of running this important service and needs you to donate!

From midday on Tuesday 14th May to midday on Tuesday 28th May donations towards this part of The Door's work will be doubled by the Big Give Kind2Mind fund. So every £1 you donate becomes £2, every £5, £10 and every £50 could be £100!

At The Door we know money is short right now, for everyone, but please do consider what you can give to help keep this incredible service running. Especially because every pound will go twice as far.

Donate today and double your donation to The Door at thedoor.org.uk/donate

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HIGHLIGHTS FOR JUNE AT TETBURY GOODS SHED

- June 1 Carmenco Pocket Opera:** Based on the story of Bizet's Carmen but told from her point of view! The cast are all Royal Academy of Music graduates and soloists in their own right. Tickets: £15. 7.30
- June 7 D-Day concert with the Big Brunch Band:** Celebrate Tetbury's part in the D-Day plans with music from the 1930s and 40s. Tickets: £12.50. 7.30
- June 8 Music for Miniatures:** A baby-friendly summer concert for a young audience and their families. Tickets: £15 family of 4 or £6 adults. 10.30
- June 15 Comedy Club:** This month we feature Adam Beardsmore, Kate Martin and headlined by Mr Roger Monkhouse! Tickets: £13.15. 8pm
- June 22 Keith Thompson Band:** The British Blues Rock musician has been touring Europe for over 30 years and we are delighted to welcome him to Tetbury. Tickets: £15. 7.30pm
- June 28 Eusebius Quartet:** The first of our Classical series: the string quartet formed in 2016 and have gained a reputation for imaginative music. They'll be playing Haydn, Beethoven and Elgar. Tickets: £24. 7.30p

Please note we offer ticket price reductions for people under 25.

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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A Bite to Eat?

**Arranging a Group Lunch, Afternoon Tea, Christening Party
or other social event ?**

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



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Avening Parish Council



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

New Planning Applications

24/01117/FUL: 35 Tetbury Hill. Widening of existing driveway and rebuilding stone boundary wall with amendments. Agreed

24/01031/FUL: Court Farm Star Lane. Erection of a residential dwelling - Variation of condition 2 (Approved plans) of planning permission 21/03751/FUL. Object: The amendment to the approved plans is overbearing and out of proportion affecting the visual amenity.

Planning Correspondence and Decisions

22/03637/LBC: Old Quarries Rectory Lane. Change of use of existing buildings from residential institution (C2 use) to residential (C3 use) including demolition of modern extensions, internal alterations and extensions, rebuilding of boundary wall. Application Permit

22/03666/FUL: Old Quarries Rectory Lane. Change of use of existing buildings from residential institution (C2 use) to residential (C3 use) to form a total of 11 no. dwellings, through demolition of modern extensions, internal alterations and extensions, demolition of modern institutional buildings and replacement with new dwellings, associated garaging, landscaping, construction of new wall in alignment of historic walled garden and associated works. Application Permit

23/02893/COMPLY1: Hampton Hill - Compliance with condition 3 (Details) of permission 23/00991/FUL - Erection of single storey side extension and installation of timber gates to existing vehicular access. Application Withdrawn

24/00290/FUL: 4 Sandford Leaze. Conversion of loft with veluxes, additional obscure side window. Application Permit

23/03998/FUL: Bannut Tree New Inn Lane. Replace boundary dry stone wall and build new retaining block wall. Replace coping stones on top of the dry stone wall that runs along the drive way. Erection of a fence along the drive way. Application Permit

Wildlife

Now the rain seems to have subsided a little and hedge trimming has begun, please check for nesting birds before cutting back.

Hedgehogs and slow worms use compost bins to keep warm, please remove compost from bins carefully.

Playing Field

A number of residents have requested to set up a working party to carry out small repairs at the playing field. It was agreed to co-ordinate this with the playing fields committee

Neighbourhood Policing Team

Police Sergeant Garrett Gloyn

PC Chris Pritchard

PCSO Edmund Maina

101@gloucestershire.police.uk

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

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

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

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



Get set for summer

Summer is here! What journeys do you have in mind? A holiday, a trip, a visit to distant friends or relatives? Then make sure your vehicle is up to the job.

Car travel check - £35.99

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www.auto-bodytech.co.uk



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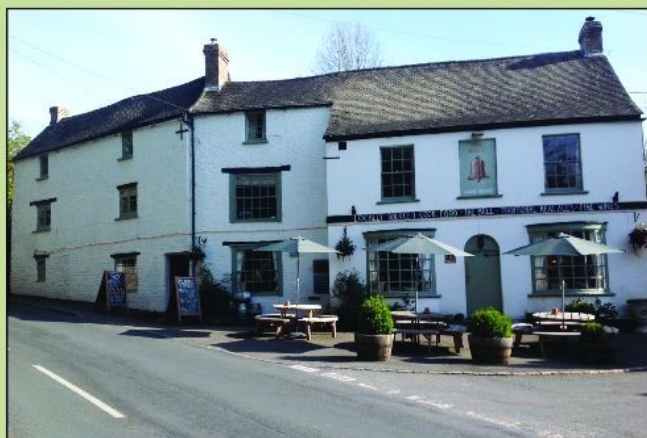


For more information please contact us on **01453 731 227** for an Information Pack or go to: **www.horsfallhouse.co.uk**

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