

A large, dark green Christmas tree stands as the central focus, densely packed with numerous small, multi-colored lights in shades of red, green, blue, yellow, and white. The tree is also adorned with various ornaments, including silver and gold baubles, star-shaped decorations, and small white snowflake ornaments. The background is a solid black, which makes the glowing lights of the tree stand out prominently. The overall scene is festive and celebratory.

The Villager

A Magazine for Avening,

December 2024 /
January 2025



Richard Murray



Liane Wheeler



Raph Arwas



Annabel Crapper



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December 2024/January 2025

Welcome to the December/ January edition of the Villager, yes, it's that time of year again when our Villages will all be lit up with the colourful lights and the sound of Christmas Carols will ring out. The Avening Christmas tree will be lit at 5.30pm on 1st December and the Cherington one following the Christingle service which takes place at 5.00pm (full details in the magazine), then there is the School and Playgroup Bazaar in the Memorial Hall on 13th and why not come and join in the festivities in The Bell from about 8.00 on 18th December plenty to get you into the spirit of the Season. The details of these and other events are all in this edition of The Villager.

The Editors would like to take this opportunity of thanking all of our readers, contributors and advertisers, for their support also a big thankyou to those people in the Villages who distribute your magazine.

We wish everyone a peaceful Christmas and a very happy and prosperous New Year, we look forward to producing the next edition of the Villager in February.

The Villager Editors

The Villager Magazine

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Photographs in The Villager Magazine

Many thanks to Tony Slater for our cover photo of last year's Avening Village Christmas tree .

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

Gilian's Poem of the Month

The Carol Service

'Tis the evening before Christmas on a frosty, starry night,
and the darkness of the village is pierced with points of light.
Suddenly church bells ring out, summoning all to come,
resounding o'er the countryside - and Christmas has begun!
The ancient church stands sturdy, strong, glowing from within,
lighting a pathway to the porch, to welcome people in.
Safe inside the old stone walls, the space is decked and bright
with holly, ivy, berries, flowers, all lit by candlelight,
Reflected on the well-worn pews of ancient, polished oak,
while through the door stream families, with children and older folk,
All wrapped in coats, and hats, and scarves, against the chill background,
while the organ murmurs softly with a sweet, melodic sound.
Then bells and organ still their tongues, and a breathless hush descends.
as "Once in Royal David's City" in a pure, clear voice ascends.
The Vicar and the choir appear, processing as they sing,
and everybody joins with them to make the rafters ring!
Everybody lifts their voice, both choir and congregation,
to sing the age-old carols, with joy and exultation.
Old carols known from childhood ring to the organ's theme,
while the well-loved words of the lessons are read-out in between.
They tell the Christmas story of Jesus holy birth,
repeating through the countless years their message of true worth —
Then "Oh Come All Ye Faithful", and as the final descant dies,
another Carol Service ends with many fond goodbyes —
So Christmas comes round once again, bringing us all delight,
as the last echoes fade away into the frosty, starry night.

Gilian Bulmer-Davison

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.

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
Sunday 1st December	Lighting Christmas Tree and Singing carols	The Green by the Old Bakery, Avening	5.30 pm.
Tuesday 3rd December	Christmas Wreath making workshop - in aid of Friends of Avening School	Cherington Village Hall	7.00 - 9.30pm
Friday 13th December	Avening Village Christmas Fayre	Avening Memorial Hall	2.45 - 6.00 pm
Wednesday 18th December	Carol singing in the Bell	The Bell Inn	8.00pm

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Avening and Cherington Churches



Dear friends,

Did you know that this double-edition of The Villager covers not only two different months and years, but also three different New Years? There is, of course, the New Calendar Year on the 1st of January 2025, which also marks such varied milestones as the 200th anniversary of the modern railway, the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicea, and 40 years since the opening of Dollywood. A celebration to suit (almost) everyone... And then there's the Lunar New Year, observed by most East Asian nations, which falls on the 29th January and will be marked by colourful celebrations across the globe. But before both of these, the New Liturgical Year begins on the 1st of December which the church marks with Advent Sunday.

In their own way, each of these new years is a celebration of what is to come. Whether it be the opportunities and resolutions of the new calendar year; the "wise and intuitive energy" of the Year of the Snake; or the buildup to the birth of Christ, each new year is a chance to celebrate the possibility of change.

But rather than jumping straight in with the celebration of Christmas, the liturgical year begins with Advent, a season of expectation and preparation. During these first four weeks, Christians reflect on the coming celebration of Jesus' birth, look forward to the day when he will return, and look back at those who prepared for his incarnation. As we light another candle on our Advent wreaths each Sunday, we remember the Patriarchs, the Prophets, John the Baptist, and the Virgin Mary, who prepared the way for the one symbolised by the final candle: Jesus Christ.

The mood of Advent changes from quiet and reflective in the early weeks to mounting excitement in the days closest to Christmas, all of which is reflected in the services marking this journey. We begin with an Advent Carol Service at Amberley on Sunday 1st December, filled with reflective Advent carols (not the joyful Christmas carols most of us are familiar with). Next, we celebrate Jesus as the light of the world with a Christingle service on the 7th December at Cherington. The mood begins to turn with our Carol Services on the 15th December at Cherington and 22nd at Avening, which recall the joy and wonder of Jesus' birth. Then the celebrations really begin on Christmas Eve with our joyfully chaotic Crib Service at Avening and traditional Midnight Mass at Cherington, followed by services at both churches on Christmas Day.

With such a variety of services, I hope you find something to nourish you this Advent and Christmas season. I look forward to writing to you again in the new, new, new year.

Every blessing

Natalie

Church Services

	AVENING	CHERINGTON
1 st Dec. 10.00am	Advent Morning prayer	HOLY COMMUNION
7 th Dec. 5.00 pm	NO SERVICE	Christingle service
8 th Dec 10.00am	HOLY COMMUNION	NO SERVICE
15 th Dec.	HOLY COMMUNION 10.00am	Carol Service 5.30 pm
22 nd Dec. 7.00pm.	Carol Service	NO SERVICE
24 th Dec.	Crib service 4.30pm	Midnight Mass (Note time) 10.30 pm
25 th Dec. 10.00am	HOLY COMMUNION	Christmas morning Service
29 th Dec. 10.00am	BENEFICE SERVICE IN MINCHINHAMPTON	
5 th Jan 10.00am	Morning Prayer	HOLY COMMUNION
12 th Jan 10.00am	HOLY COMMUNION	NO SERVICE
19 th Jan. 10.00 am	MORNING PRAYER	HOLY COMMUNION
26 th Jan. 10.00am	HOLY COMMUNION	NO SERVICE
2 nd Feb. 10.00	MORNING PRAYER	HOLY COMMUNION

Donations to Avening Church



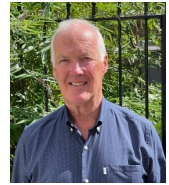
Donations towards the upkeep and running of Avening Church can be made at any time either by using the QR code here or on the card machine just inside the church door



Church Floodlighting

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

Letter from Chairman of Avening Parish Council



Each month as I settle down to write the monthly letter for The Villager, I really want it to be a most captivating and interesting read – sadly there is usually so little to write about that it rarely if ever reaches that high bar - this month is no exception!!

Let's kick off with the seasonal events: **1st December, the Christmas Lights** will be switched on at around 5.30pm. This year the tree will be decorated with new lights; opting for 'white' rather than the coloured arrangement of previous seasons. The Avening Singers will be on hand to jolly everyone along to join in with the carols. Tradition has it, that those who are able to, should reassemble in the pub for more singing and a few drinks.

Christmas Fayre Craft Sale, Friday 13th December, Avening Memorial Hall, 2.45pm – 6pm: There will be Santa's grotto, Raffle and Tombola, Festive Refreshments, Market Stalls, Christmas Crafts, Games & Prizes, Face Painting, Singing and Music. Put it on your Christmas bucket list!

Remembrance Sunday – Sunday 10th November: Thank you to all those who turned out to give their respects to those villagers who have given their lives for our tomorrows. My special thanks to the two Tetbury Air Cadets who did use proud with their involvement. Thanks, must also go to the Silver Band and the other organisers from the village who performed the readings.

The Village Stream: A reminder to anyone whose land abuts a watercourse please make sure it is kept reasonably clean and clear.

Avening Memorial Hall: The Trustees are hoping that the final details of the lease with the Athelstan Trust can at long last be agreed and put in place.

Trees and Hedges: still a good time to trim back any vegetation that over hangs footpaths or roads – it makes it safer for everyone and gives the impression of a tidy village.

Snow Clearing and Grit Supplies: A second reminder that the current grit bins will not be replenished during the winter (Council Cutbacks) and we must use the existing grit sparingly. The most efficient method for clearing the side roads/hills is by using the village gritter – this is stored in the small shed adjacent to the Memorial Hall.

New Residents: I hear that there are a few new arrivals in the village – if you happen to be in that bracket, please have a look on line at our website – avening-pc.gov.uk – where you will find lots of useful information, including ongoing social clubs and events.

I send everyone my best wishes for a Very Happy Christmas, and ask you all to be aware of anyone who may be alone this Christmas and help where you are able.

Best wishes to everyone.

Patrick Mulligan 07713068436

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District Councillor's Report



Cotswold District Council: There was no full council meeting this month but at Overview and Scrutiny we reviewed the waste collection implementation (see below) and the draft budget with the medium-term financial strategy. The latter caused me great concern as it shows CDC reserves running out in 2025/26 and a significant budget gap with an associated borrowing requirement in 2026/27. The Chief Financial Officer highlighted this was a worst-case scenario and is dependent on any new settlement from the government, but it may need the administration to take drastic action to avoid issues. Presently they are forecasting around £4m to cover the capital cost of replacement bin lorry fleet, but are working to mitigate this by spreading the need for a wholesale replacement in one hit. However, 5 years ago the reserves stood at £13.4m with a further £7m in property, and they are forecast to be completely depleted in the next few years. While there have certainly been issues created by the previous government's sporadic settlement, much of the over spend is self-inflicted – this includes the costs for breaking up and the in-sourcing of Publica service company resources (enduring impact of c£400k per year plus project costs), and they have just announced the arrival of two new communications roles costing a combined £250,000pa.

Bins: At Overview and Scrutiny Cllr Evamy gave a verbal update, with the Ubico management contributing. When the new rounds were introduced the Ubico management failed to inform their employees that instead of finishing work mid-afternoon, they would be required complete a full day. This obviously caused individuals urgent issues with childcare and other commitments, but management were shocked that a significant number of staff suddenly went off 'sick'! The management also failed to tell workers that they had fitted tracking technology in the trucks. It has taken many weeks to rectify these issues that could so easily have been avoided with sensible advance dialogue with the crews. Both Cllr Evamy and Ubico have offered unreserved apologies for the inconvenience caused to residents. The good news is that most issues have been resolved, and the new rounds will save £500k per year for a modest outlay of £91k (including the £75k they forgot to put in the budget!). Please continue to report missed collections to me as well as the official route at CDC - if I hear nothing, I will be delighted!

Roads: My attempt to get recompense for a damaged tyre appears to be over. The local magistrates court has 'set aside' my claim on a technicality and I don't have the knowledge on how to overcome the required information. I have tried to get some legal representation but have been unable to get a law firm to help. So, GCC's expensive lawyers have once again been successful in fending off a perfectly valid claim for modest recompense. I do wonder how much more it has cost the taxpayer in legal fees versus refunding my burst tyre!

Pothole season is now in full swing, and I reported several holes the area, including a huge, repeat offender near Cherington lake – another example of wasting taxpayer's money by dropping blobs of cold tarmac rather than fixing the cause, which in this case is

spring water constantly flowing across the road. It was quickly fixed, with... more blobs of cold tar!

Family Farm Tax: Whatever your feelings on the recent budget, the 'APR' change means that inheritance tax of 20% will effectively apply on the full value of farms and rural estates above £1m. In my rural, agricultural ward, farming food for the nation does not pay the bills. Most farmers have to find creative ways to stay afloat, by doing two or more jobs or starting up a sideline business as they make stupidly little income from farming, even though they work long, lonely hours. Farmers tend to be asset-rich and cash poor. Farming is not a popular vocation due to the low pay, difficult work and increasing risk of having crops ruined by extreme weather. Farming is like nursing, it is a vocation, often handed down from father to child. If they cannot afford to pass their business down to relatives, the family farm as we know it will die out, along with all the localised knowledge - every farm is unique having different topography, soils, weather exposure etc. and food security will decline. Family farmers are caretakers of our landscapes, the countryside would look completely different without them. Or perhaps we could build houses!

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:

PLEASE! NEVER PUT BATTERIES IN YOUR GENERAL WASTE

Recycling operators and vehicles could be put in real danger. A 2021 study claims that Li-ion batteries cause about 48% of all UK waste fires per year, resulting in millions in damage to waste operators, fire services and the environment. Recycling centres are full of combustible materials and too many 'zombie' batteries are going into either recycling bins or black rubbish bags, even small lithium-ion batteries explode "with a rocket flame" if punctured. The ESA has launched a campaign called Take Charge which encourages people to dispose of batteries properly.

How can you help fight the zombies? Never put a battery in the bin. Take batteries out of electricals (phones, vapes, cameras etc.) before recycling . Always use the right recycling facilities for batteries. Check waste wizard if you aren't sure.

HOW TO REPORT POTHoles

I recommend using this link, especially if you have a smartphone and can take a photograph of the pothole and identify the exact position. It is more efficient than emailing the council as officers get a daily schedule of these alerts. Gloucestershire County Council, report a pothole:

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/roads/your-highways-report-it/>

Puzzle Corner

7			5			4		
1	6	3		4			7	
	4	2	7	9				6
4		8	6	2	9		1	
	1		3	5	8	2		4
8				3	7	6	5	
	9			1		8	2	7
		1			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 34

A Christmas Quiz

1. What fruit is used to make a Christingle?
2. What fairytale inspired the first gingerbread house?
3. In the song "The 12 Days of Christmas", how many different types of birds are given as gifts?
4. Boxing Day is also a saint's day, who is the saint?
5. What do you call a female turkey?
6. What plant is sometimes known as the 'Christmas flower'?
7. In what ocean would you find Christmas Island?
8. In which year was the first Christmas card sent?
9. Which city has been donating Trafalgar Square's Christmas tree to London every year since 1947?
10. How many of Rudolph's fellow reindeers' names start with 'D'?
11. What is the name of the boy in Raymond Briggs' story of "The Snowman"?
12. What Christmas-themed ballet premiered in Saint Petersburg, Russia in 1892?
13. What was the first song played in space?
14. Who wrote *A Child's Christmas in Wales*?
15. What is the best-selling Christmas song of all time?

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The festive season can be a financially challenging time, and often borrowing money or using a credit card to fund Christmas can seem like your only option. But there are steps you can take to keep your spending under control and avoid falling into debt.



The first thing to do is make a budget and stick to it. Consider who you're buying gifts for, what other seasonal expenses you have, and how much you can realistically afford to spend. Always keep receipts, or ask for gift receipts, in case you overspend and need to return something. And remember that household bills may be higher during this period due to colder weather and spending more time indoors.

If you've built up debt, please don't ignore bills or letters. Speak to the organisation you owe money to, as they may let you pay smaller amounts. Pay 'priority debts' first, like rent, mortgage arrears, council tax, and energy bills. For other types of debt like credit cards or loans, gather all the information on what you owe, create a budget, and contact your creditors to set up an affordable repayment plan. This is an important first step. If your budget just doesn't add up and you need help to afford essentials like bills and food, see what cost of living support is available on the Citizens Advice website.

It's especially important to check if you're eligible for the Winter Fuel Payment, which will now only be paid to those who receive Pension Credit or other means-tested benefits. If you make a claim for Pension Credit by 21 December, you might still receive the Winter Fuel Payment.

If you do find yourself struggling financially during or after the holidays, don't panic. Support is out there, and Citizens Advice can help you understand what's available. We're here to help you find a way forward. Please look at the public website first if possible (www.citizensadvice.org.uk). If that isn't possible or you need further help please call us on 0808 800 0510 or 0808 800 0511 (Monday and Tuesday 10am-4pm; Wednesday and Thursday 10am-12.30pm). You can also access our local website (www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk) to complete our email form.

We will be closed from 1pm on 24th December until 10am on Thursday 2nd January but we will have information about how to get urgent help on our local website.

Citizens Advice Stroud & Cotswold Districts Ltd



Avening School

A Cracking Performance!

With only weeks to go now until Christmas, the tree is out, the stage is up and lines and songs are being rehearsed in readiness for our two school productions at the end of term. The reception and KS1 pupils are putting a spin on the story of the nativity with their performance of The Fleece Force, while the KS2 children are journeying down the rabbit hole in their production of Alice (a modern musical based on Alice in Wonderland).

The drama doesn't stop there. All children will be taking a trip to the theatre; the Owls class (y5/6) will be visiting the Bristol Old Vic theatre to watch The Little Mermaid while the rest of the school travel to the Swindon Wyvern Theatre for a production of Cinderella.

This term, we have been celebrating our wonderful school library. Ten years ago this month, after partial school refurbishment, the library opened in its current space and became a hub for reading, borrowing and enjoying books of all genres. Since then, we have had a decade of after school library sessions, unforgettable World Book Day celebrations and, more recently, have expanded our focus on reading for pleasure to classroom libraries and dedicated fortnightly class library sessions. Thanks to the generosity of parents and families, the wider local community and local organisations, the library's selection is regularly refreshed and updated. In order to maintain the level of enthusiasm for reading within our school, we rely solely on fundraising and donations. The children are regularly requesting titles which we have on a School Library wish list. If anyone would like to purchase a book from this list for the school library (which also feeds into the classroom libraries) please contact Alex Adcock at clerk@avening.gloucs.sch.uk We hugely appreciate the continued support which enables our library to grow, engaging our young readers from the moment they join our school to the moment they leave.

As we approach the end of the year, FOAS (Friends of Avening School) are busy with fund-raising and supporting the school. They are providing festive refreshments at our Christmas productions, organising a 'Secret Santa' present from each of the children to a loved one of their choice – parent or pet! – and we are all looking forward to the FOAS Christmas Fayre which they are running together with Avening Playgroup. Please come along and join us from 2.45pm in the Memorial Hall, Avening, on Friday 13 December, for an afternoon of Christmas shopping and festive fun!

We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Alex Adcock

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

Avening Village CHRISTMAS FAYRE

In support of Avening Primary School and Avening Playgroup

Mulled
Wine
and Mince Pies

Pulled
Pork
and Bacon Rolls

Children's
Crafts
and Christmas Games

Christmas
Shopping

Local Handmade &
Artisan Goods



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ENTRY**

- ❄ Santa's Grotto
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- ❄ Festive Refreshments
- ❄ Market Stalls
- ❄ Christmas Crafts
- ❄ Games and Prizes
- ❄ Face Painting
- ❄ Singing and Music

FRIDAY 13TH DECEMBER

2.45pm to 6pm | Avening Memorial Hall, GL8 8NF

Please note, not all stalls can accept card payments | FOAS Charity Number 1055040
www.facebook.com/friendsofaveningschool | foasavening@gmail.com
aveningplaygroup.co.uk | Playgroup Charity Number 900618

Avening Community Café

Enjoy good company, delicious home made cakes and a drink at your Community Café. Mobile Post Office on site from 9:30 – 11:30.

It was so nice to see parents and children in their fancy dress at our Halloween themed café. There was a real buzz at the Café as it celebrated its 6th Birthday on 12 November with everyone raising a glass to its continued success. In anticipation of the festive season, we were joined by “Made in Avening” who had some lovely hand-crafted products for sell.



Art with Mark is proving to be very popular. He will be running sessions in December and on 7th January but is then taking a break until 18 February.



Our rag ruggers have produced a number of beautiful colourful wall hangings which can be seen at the Café. They are now looking for smaller projects so if anyone would like mats, cushion covers or pet rugs etc, please let us know your design ideas and we will be happy to make it for you.

We are pleased to announce that the Community Café will be open on **Saturday 1st February** and if this proves successful, we aim to run a Saturday Café on a quarterly basis. Please come along with family and friends and give us a try!

December Dates

3rd Art with Mark (£3 each, all materials supplied). Please book in advance.

10th Wreath making (£3 each). **St Lucys Day (Giver of Light).**

17th Art with Mark (£3 each, all materials supplied). Please book in advance.

Christmas Cheer – Come along and join us for a mince pie.

24th Café CLOSED

31st New Years Eve - Come along in your best festive gear and toast the New Year!

January Dates

7th Art with Mark (£3 each, all materials supplied). Please book in advance.

14th A warm welcome awaits you

21st Burns Night - have a wee dram with your coffee and cake!

28th Chinese New Year – Year of the Snake

To Note: Sat 1 Feb – Saturday morning Café 10 to 12am.

John Hetterley, For Avening Community Café



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Sunday Dec 15th at 5 pm

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Christmas Eve 10 pm

Midnight Mass Service with Holy Communion

Christmas Day 10 am

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Avening Playgroup



Over the past few weeks, we have been looking at the following topics:

Halloween – we looked at the lifecycle of a pumpkin, dug the flesh out of some pumpkins, drew and painted spiders and pumpkins, and made pumpkin collages.

Bonfire Night - we made bright firework pictures using toilet rolls that had been cut at end, dipped into paint and sprinkled with glitter. We also talked briefly about how bonfire night started

Remembrance Day – we talked about remembering the soldiers and why we wear poppies. The children also drew and coloured in some poppies. A big thank you to Esme, Layla and Mora for helping to lay the wreath at the remembrance service.

Superheroes – the children have been busy making superhero masks and shields. They have talked about what their superpower would be.



The children have had lots of fun playing with the doctors and nurses set. They dressed up and looked after their patients, making sure they took their medicine. We will soon be starting to look at Christmas and look forward to making lots of different Christmas crafts.

We started the Baby and Toddler group on 8th November and it was lovely to welcome a couple of new faces. The Toddler Group takes place every Friday (during term time between 9.30 and 11.00 am. It only costs £3 and is a great way to meet other families from Avening and the neighbouring villages.

Don't forget Friday 13th December – the Avening Christmas Fayre, where the school and playgroup get together to raise much needed funds for the children. The playgroup staff and committee will be dropping off letters through your doors from 4th December and will come to collect any donations from your doorstep by 11th December. Please keep an eye open for these letters or you can drop any donations off at the playgroup.

The playgroup is also joining forces with FOAS for the Christmas Lights switch on. Don't forget to bring a decoration for the tree and any spare coins you may have for the collection buckets. Everything is greatly appreciated!

The last day of this term is Friday 20th December and we look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 6th January 2024.

The staff, committee, children and the families at Avening Playgroup wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

If you would like to know more about the playgroup and Toddler Group or to reserve a place for your child, please contact us on 01453 832695 on weekday mornings or email aveningplaygroup@gmail.com

Angie Heslop

Avening Playgroup—Baby and Toddler Group

Fridays 9.30 – 11.00 am

Starts 8th November – Term time only

At Avening Playgroup The Sunground, Avening, GL8 8NW

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The sessions are open to parents/carers and their pre-school children aged 0-5.

The sessions are run by qualified playgroup staff.

Children remain the responsibility of their parent/carer at all times.

For more information phone 01453 832695, or email aveningplaygroup@gmail.com



If you are looking for an eco-friendly way to dispose of your Christmas trees, Longfield Community Hospice can help you out with their annual Christmas tree recycling collection service in partnership with charity JustHelping.

In return for a voluntary donation, Longfield charity's team of volunteers will collect your trees from your home, at the end of the festive season, and take them to be chipped and recycled at recycling sites across Gloucestershire, including Painswick Rococo Garden, where they are chipped into mulch and reused locally, making this the most eco-friendly way to dispose of your tree. Hoping to collect and recycle more trees than ever this year, Longfield are aiming to raise more than £72,000, which could help fund over 1,300 hours of Hospice at Home care, wellbeing, bereavement and counselling services. This is a huge operation for Longfield and last year an army of volunteers collected as many as 3742 trees over four days from households throughout Gloucestershire.

To arrange collection of your tree, simply visit www.just-helping.org.uk/register-tree and enter your postcode, where you can make a voluntary donation to your local community hospice. Bookings can be made until 7th January 2025. All money raised helps to fund the hospice's vital work supporting patients, families and carers across Gloucestershire. The fundraising team are also looking for volunteers, vans to collect Christmas trees, and tree chippers from Sunday 11th to Tuesday 14th January. To volunteer either with your time or if you have a van or chipper, then please contact the events team on 01453 886868, or email events@longfield.org.uk

MY NEW BEST FRIEND

Fortunately for my new friend I'm an early riser otherwise our friendship would, by now, have come to a grinding halt. Being woken up early every morning is not what many people would be at all happy about but when you hear a constant tapping on the bedroom window you really have to accept the fact that it's the start of another day and it's time to get up and say good morning. At least there's one bonus point relating to the darker mornings because instead of 6.00 a.m. as it had been during the summer, the wake-up call is now delayed by about an hour which means I'm already awake anyway.



When it's obvious that I'm up and about, the tapping stops and a little feathered face peers through the window, looks to see if there's the odd bit of breakfast snack in the shape of insects on the window ledge and then decides it's time to move on with a quick glance as if to say "I'll be back tomorrow - same time, same place" and off it goes. I say "it" because it's impossible to differentiate between a male and female robin. As far as I know they have no discerning features but one is always led to believe the male tends to be somewhat more territorial than the female as well as being somewhat more aggressive.

Going back to the article by Roger Lindley in the September issue of The Villager about the lack of garden birds, I do hope with all the care he's taken with his foolproof bird feeders, that his garden has now welcomed back the finches, the robins and the various tits that used to frequent it. I must say I have noticed, in previous years, that July and August tend to have fewer garden birds but whether, due to such an unsummery summer they were all huddling down in wooded areas to keep dry, we'll never know. All I ever saw day in, day out were pairs of pigeons who would take enormous pleasure in having a bath in my bird bath and, without fail, emptying it every single time.

Forgetting birds for the moment, I seem to have a pretty varied selection of four-footed creatures one way and another ranging from squirrels and their very impressive ballet-dancing movements as they leap from branch to branch in my chestnut trees to a few rabbits who appear and disappear and a muntjac who flits alongside the wall and then vaults it into the field next door.

But back to birds and my most favourite sight is a covey of six partridge who regularly appear and have done so right from when they were quite small chicks to the young adults they have become. They have a wonderful time pecking over the gravel on my drive, leaving their tell-tale scent which, of course, sends my labrador chasing up and down wondering where they've gone. Little does she know they've taken themselves off

to the middle of the adjacent field where they, hopefully, safely forage.

Any minute now the fieldfares and the redwings will be arriving from their Arctic homes all ready to demolish every red berry they can find. So far all the berries are still intact and I'm not aware of having seen the predators yet but I guess it won't be long before they flock in.

I'm sure Mr. Lindley will be hoping, as indeed I do, that next summer we'll all be lucky enough to have once again the wonderful tapestry of birdlife back in our gardens.

Ann Tarlton



~ JOHAN OLNER ~

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Alison Hodges, BSC(Hons) MSc PGCE

Does Amazon fulfil your customer orders? Apparently it does, and that is why the centre at Swindon is called 'The Amazon Fulfilment Centre'. A group of our members was recently taken on a tour of the facility, described by one of them as 'a mind-boggling, amazing, eye-opening experience that stretched our brains to breaking point'! The enormous centre can house 33 million items at any one time, and is the second largest in the UK. The group was taken to see all the processes from goods arriving through to dispatch of orders.



Although there are workers in all areas the whole system is controlled by computers and robots. In the picking area floor robots are used to transport cages with 24 compartments in them holding a variety of items ready for orders. The robot is underneath the cages and directs them backwards, forwards and sideways to whichever picking point they are needed. The robots have lithium batteries in them and when they run low they take themselves off to the charging points to recharge! The working conditions are good and there is a waiting list of 400 people wanting to join the company.

Our Theatre Group recently saw a production of Room 13, a modern haunting written exclusively for the Barn Theatre. It certainly was a SPOOKY – on the edge of your seats evening, with very atmospheric and scary moments. We all certainly jumped a few times and hid our eyes!!

Our Book Group will be discussing 'A Terrible Kindness' by Jo Browning Wroe', interweaving the emotional story of a young man who was a boy chorister at King's College, with his later experiences as an embalmer at the Aberfan disaster.

At our October meeting we welcomed Stephen Rowley entertaining us with 'An A-Z of Music'. He had brought an amazing collection of instruments, their initial letters covering almost all the alphabet. These ranged from an ancient, tiny bone pipe to an enormous didgeridoo, more correctly called a yidaki. What was even more impressive was that he could play every instrument on display, although the Irish bagpipes were too cold and made a horrible noise!

At this meeting we collected donations of festive food for the Stroud Foodbank and small gifts and toys to be given as presents to the mothers and children at the Stroud Women's Refuge. As usual our members were very generous.

Following the speaker we held our AGM: our President Liz Knowles gave her Annual Report and stepped down after five years overseeing AWI. Liz has represented AWI on many occasions and has been a popular and capable President. Helen Haiselden thanked Liz for her years of service to AWI.

The Social Club was full for our recent Village Quiz. Shirley Hand had produced another great set of questions and her daughter Alison, the Quizmaster, kept things moving. As usual people were very generous and the profit of £200 will be donated to the Memorial Hall for the kitchen refurbishment. Thank you to the helpers and everyone who took part.

We always have festive events planned for this time of the year and these start with a visit to Wotton under-Edge for shopping, followed by lunch at The Good Food Café. This year our Christmas lunch will be at The Ragged Cot, Minchinhampton. A small group will be going to the GFWI Christmas Concert in Cheltenham, hosted by Mark Cummins, with guest artiste Johnny Coppin. Then we have a wreath making workshop in the Social Club, followed by a bring and share lunch. We round off another busy year with our Christmas party, enjoying light-hearted competitions and of course some tempting party food.

We meet on the second Thursday of the month in the Memorial Hall at 7.30pm. Visitors and prospective members are always welcome.

For more information contact our secretary Helen at aveningwi@gmail.com

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Piers & Nicks Alpine mountain biking adventure

It was all Clyde's fault. Early in the year, up popped his message on the Avening Recreational Sports Enthusiasts (A.R.S.E.) WhatsApp group: 'OK, who wants to do the Stone King route?' and showed a picture of happy bikers enjoying themselves in the mountains. Then brief discussion in the Bell and, yeah, we can do that, what could possibly go wrong? Let's have another round of beer!

Turns out this is a 6-day mountain biking journey on our own bikes in early October, from high in the southern Italian/ French Alps ending at the sea near San Remo, supported by vehicle shuttles and staying in small mountain villages along the way. The stats? 300km of rough goat tracks, old salt routes, herding paths and mountain roads with 8.5km vertical ascent and 22km vertical decent. Although the event seemed (and turned out to be) highly organised, there would be no 'guide' to follow when riding, navigation being by our bar-mounted Garmins using pre-set routes, so we would be on our own. There is an annual Stone King race (billed the toughest mountain bike race in the world) but we planned to do one of the few annual 'club' weeks, for mere mortals – same route, just not a race and with comfy hotels each evening. In the clear light of day, only Piers and I were able to sign up. Gulp! We had much to do: training, ensure bikes were in tip top condition, get used to our Garmins, gather the recommended equipment & spares, investigate travelling with our bikes packed in special bags, etc.

We flew to Nice a few days early to ensure our bikes arrived and were in good working order. Then picked up by our organised shuttles – five minivans, most with bike trailers - to take the gathered group of about 30, all our bikes and all our kit up to Arvieux, our start point about 5 hrs drive away. These shuttles would also be our 'uplifts' during the trip, typically 3 a day, also carrying our much-needed lunch and snacks. The rest of the group were a mixed bag from NZ, USA, Canada, Switzerland, Germany and of course UK, with four girls. Average age about 45 with Piers and I being the oldest by a good few years. From initial chats, we were clearly amongst some very good bikers.

And then it began.... Fasten your seatbelt, oh my goodness!

The downhill biking? Exhilarating, terrifying, extremely long, bumpy, technical, very tiring, bone rattling, sometimes extremely steep in places and all on a scale that we had never experienced before. We were generally towards the back of the pack but very much held our own. One of the drivers said that we are a fast group that stuck together. It didn't seem it at the time but we took that compliment and ran with it. There were a few frightening tumbles but damage was minor to body, mind and bike. Piers did actually break a carbon strut on the frame of his newish bike but managed to mend it using a splint of teaspoons from a coffee shop bound up with duck tape. It held up!

The uphill? Long and again extremely steep in places, often suited to either walking with your bike or hefting it on your back and scrambling up as best you could. Our highest point was just over 2,700m - the altitude didn't seem to affect us too much but it was cold up there so needed full winter riding kit, the whole thing warming as we slowly approached the coast. Remarkably, Piers and I were fast uphill, often towards the front of the pack. We couldn't work this out but maybe those Cotswold hills have done us proud over the years.



Days in the saddle were long and we were all tired but we took time to enjoy the very good company we were with, good humour ran throughout the event, we admired the outstanding scenery and of course chatted to the various few people we met along the way. It was a brilliant event. Thanks Clyde and we hope you get to do it one day, maybe with fellow A.R.S.E. members including Piers & myself.

Nicholas Winkfield

AVENINGCINEMA CLUB



There will be no film in December

The next film will be on WEDNESDAY 29th January
Doors open 7pm. Film starts 7.30pm. Interval halfway
Please feel free to bring refreshments

AVENING MEMORIAL HALL

Admission £5

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

Contact us at aveningcinemaclub@gmail.com



- Dec 1** **Roy Howat Piano Recital:** The internationally acclaimed pianist gives us an evening of music by Chopin, Chabrier, Debussy and Faure. He has made a speciality of the French piano repertoire, playing around the world. 6.30. Tickets £24 in advance (£14 under 25s)
- Dec 4** **A Winter's Tale:** Join Ratty and friends with the Last Baguette's Christmas special! Ideal for 2+ and their grown-ups. 10am/11am. Tickets £7 in advance. (Under 1s free.)
- Dec 7/8** **Christmas Fair:** A chance to find the perfect Christmas present made by local artisans – everything from pottery to knitwear, jams and chutneys and original prints and much more. 1030-5 Admission free
- Dec 13** **Comedy Club:** Comedy Christmas Crackers Paul F Taylor, Stephanie Laing and Danny Deegan bring you a night of festive comedy. 8pm. Tickets in advance £13.50 (under 25s £10)
- Dec 14** **Johnny Coppin** is back with All On a Winter's Night – his ever popular seasonal concert featuring new releases as well as perennial favourites. 7.30. Tickets in advance £20 (u16 £10)
- Dec 21** **Kim Cypher and her Band:** Join them for a jazzy Christmas special – a mixture of Latin, Blues, swing, funky groove and festive favourites. 7.30. Tickets in advance £18

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

Puzzle and Quiz Answers

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

Answers to the Christmas quiz

1. An Orange
2. Hansel and Gretel
3. Six (Partridge, Turtle Doves, French Hens, Calling Birds, Geese and Swans)
4. Saint Stephen
5. A hen
6. Poinsettia
7. The Indian Ocean
8. 1843
9. Oslo, in Norway
10. Three - Dancer, Dasher, Donner
11. James
12. The Nutcracker by Tchaikovsky
13. Jingle Bells
14. Dylan Thomas
15. Bing Crosby's "White Christmas"



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Avening Parish Council



Village Archivist Vacancy: If you have an interest in History, the Parish Council are looking for someone to take on the role of Village Archivist. Please get in touch for more information.

Roads and Footpaths: Potholes continue to be a problem throughout the County. Although the Parish Council report regularly, the more reports the better. If you see a fault on the footpaths or the roads, please report it on Fix My Street. <https://fixmystreet.gloucestershire.gov.uk>

Mobile Bakery Van: Many residents used the Knead mobile bakery van 26th October. The van will be outside the Memorial Hall on again on Saturday 30th November and Saturday 28th December 9.45 – 10.30.

Dog Fouling Again!: Dog Fouling continues to be an issue throughout the village. Please clean up after your dog. It is an offence not to do so. If you see someone not picking up, please report them. This can be done anonymously. <https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/environment/litter-street-cleaning-and-dog-fouling/>. Dogs are not allowed in the Children's play area.

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

New Planning Applications

24/03045/FUL: 12 Star Lane - Erection of two storey side extension and first floor extension to rear. - Support

24/03056/FUL: 11 High Street - Replace ancillary residential garage door. - Support

24/03131/CONBGP: Land At Grid Reference 388941 197571 Star Lane – Compliance with Biodiversity Gain Plan of permission 24/01818/FUL - Erection of an extension to an agricultural building. – No Comment

24/03130/COMPLY: Land At Grid Reference 388941 197571 Star Lane – Compliance with condition 4 (Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP)) of permission

24/01818/FUL: Erection of an extension to an agricultural building. – No Comment

24/03142/TCONR: 16 Star Lane - Willow (T1): re-pollard back to previous pruning points. - Support

Cotswold District Council Planning Decisions

24/01818/FUL: Land At Grid Reference 388941 197571 Star Lane Erection of an extension to an agricultural building - Application Permit

24/02126/FUL: Land Parcel Easting 387079 Northing 197991 West End Erection of agricultural barn - Application Permit

24/02380/FUL1: Spinners Cottages Longfords Mill - New entrance Porch (Retrospective)- Application Permit

24/02552/COMPLY: Longtree Barn Tetbury Road - Compliance with conditions 3 (Sample

materials), 4 (Door and window finishes), 5 (Landscaping scheme - prior to first use) 8 (Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP)), 9 (External lighting), 10 (EV charging), 11 (Cycle parking) and 12 (Parking details) of permission

22/00926/FUL: Conversion of a Dutch barn into 1 no. dwelling - Application Permit

24/02726/TCONR: Church Farm Point Road - Sycamore (T1) - Pollard to 10m above ground level following a recent failure of a major limb onto a popular footpath below. This was despite the limb having been reduced less than two years ago - No objection.

24/02755/FUL: Winterfold 23 West End - Erection of a two-storey extension and addition of garden wall. – Application Permit

24/02980/TCONR - 7 Old Hill - T1- Yew tree to be reduced by 3m in height in Lateral reduction of 2.5m back to previous - No Objection

24/00122/FUL6 Old Hill - Replacement of six wooden windows and front doors - Application Permit

Neighbourhood Policing Team

Police Seargent Garrett Gloyn; PC Chris Pritchard; PCSO Edmund Maina

101@gloucestershire.police.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

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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	Babs Malony 07958116794
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 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	Monday	8.00-9.00pm	Church bell tower	Andrew Lelliott 07726345516
Avening W.I.	2nd Thursday each month	7.30pm	Social Club/ Memorial Hall	Liz 01453 833803
Fledglings for pre-schoolers	Fridays during term time	2.00 - 3.00pm	School Garden	Avening School
Fun Skittles	1st Saturday each month	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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www.service-tech.org.uk



Inchbrook Trading Estate, (A46) Bath Road, Nailsworth, Stroud, GL5 5EY

Day Centre & Social Club

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

Home Care Services

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

Nursing Home

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

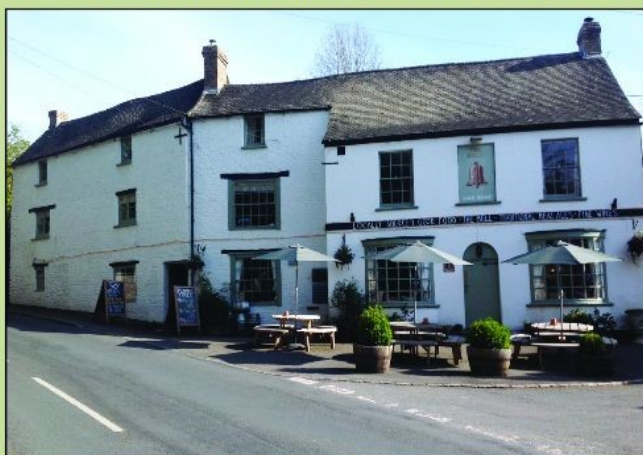


For more information please contact us on **01453 731 227** for an Information Pack or go to:
www.horsfallhouse.co.uk

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

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FOOD HYGIENE RATING

0 1 2 3 4 **5**

OPENING TIMES:
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TUESDAY-THURSDAY: 5.00PM-CLOSE
FRIDAY: 4PM-CLOSE
SATURDAY & SUNDAY: 3PM-CLOSE
FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH
IS TONY'S QUIZ NIGHT

Call us on: **01453 836422** or e-mail us at **info@agpubs.co.uk**

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