

Points of Interest (numbers refer to the map)

- The Church of the Holy Cross** is well worth a special visit. It was given by Queen Matilda in 1082 to the nursery of Holy Trinity, Caen, which she had founded in c.1066 – this is reflected in the Avening crest. The church building is constructed in limestone ashlar and coursed rubble. It has a chance of two bays with south vestry, a central tower north and south transepts, and a nave with north aisle and porch. Parts of the nave and chancel arch are probably the oldest sections of the fabric and may date from the late 11th century. A leaflet giving details of its history and features of special interest is available in the church.
- The (Old) Rectory** was built around 1780. In the 19th Century, the Rev T R Brooke (instituted in 1836) built a new rectory.
- This building is now known as **Old Quarries**. However, it proved too large for succeeding rectors, who returned to the original rectory. In the 1980 a new, modern rectory was built and the Old Rectory was sold for private occupation. It has been the home of the Playne family: the Glasier family, and by Lord Lee of Fareham, whose banner from the Henry VII Chapel in Westminster Abbey, now hangs in the Holy Cross Church.
- Avening mills**
Mills along the Avon brook (this is where Avening gets its name – Celtic for a settlement by a waterway) have been a feature of the village for centuries. Four mills are recorded as existing in Avening at the time of the Norman Conquest.
- Near the Old Rectory is the site of one of the Avening Mills – This was **Georges Mill**, which was demolished in the 1920s. Looking over the wall to the left of the Old Rectory gates, you can see the remains of the leat which ducted water from the main brook to drive the mill's water wheel.
- The leat passes under the main Nailsworth road and emerges to join the brook by the entrance to **Avening Social Club**.
- The Calcutt Pumps**
On the left, as you proceed up Woodstock Lane, is a good example of one of the twelve **cast iron pumps** from which villagers obtained their water until 1946.
- The pumps were fed by a **reservoir**: off Longmans Lane, and installed by public subscription to Avening Water Works in 1900. Other pumps can be seen outside the Bell Inn; High Street, to the left of The Shoebox at the Point Rd junction; a second in Woodstock Lane; in Point Rd, opposite 'Stumps'; on Tetbury Hill; on Pound Hill; and in Star Lane. The Calcutt family also donated the original wooden building of Avening Social Club for the use by the British Legion. There are two memorial windows to members of the family in the church.
- Woodstock Lane**
Woodstock Lane is a hard surfaced part of the old Pack Horse Trail, colloquially known as the Old Bristol Road. The track continues through Ridgeway, Hazelwood, and then via Beverstone (6 miles south west of Avening) on to Bristol. One of the Calcutt pumps stands at the fork of Woodstock Lane.
- The left fork reveals a row of cottages on the right (14 – 18) which were the **Avening Workhouse** in the 18th century. A good view of the church tower can be seen from here.
- While crossing the **Poolhay**, you will see the watersmeet of the Avon Brook and the tributary which flows down the valley below Avening Park. As you approach the two stiles into the churchyard, you will see Avening School ahead of you.
- West End forms part of the old road to Nailsworth, and meets part of the Macmillan Way from Tetbury.
- Church Farm** and Church Farm Bams. The house dates from 17th century. As the name and location suggests, it was the farmhouse for the Avening rectory, and Glebe farm, which provided part of the Rector's stipend.
- The lane known as **Greenway Head**, signposted towards Tetbury, gives fine views of the old and newer parts of the village, and of Gatcombe Park, the home of the Princess Royal. The site of Avening Football Club (now disbanded) is on the right of the junction at Greenway Head and Tetbury Hill.
- Tetbury Hill & Pound Hill**
A few yards down Tetbury hill, on the left over the stone stile, there is evidence of one of the old **Packhorse Trails**. The trail is seen as a deep depression and line of trees. It can be followed across the main road, on to Star Lane and beyond to Tetbury Upton.
- Pound Hill** was so named because the field adjoining the house now called Penny Cottage was the village 'pound'. This was a fenced enclosure in which the constable impounded animals found straying, and those seized for non-payment of debt. They could only be removed by their owners under supervision. The entrance to the pound now forms the main drive to the cottage. Houses on the hill and nearby are some of the oldest in the village, dating back to the 17th and 18th centuries. The hill gives fine views of the Nailsworth valley and is a favourite spot with artists.
- Point Road**
The name probably originates from the presence of toll houses, or points, where tolls were collected for the use of roads. The turnpike system came into use in the 18th century. A private act of parliament would establish a turnpike trust where the trustees were empowered to construct and maintain a stated road and to levy tolls on it.
- About 70 yards along the road on the left, just beyond one of the Calcutt pumps, is a group of cottages known as **Barn Row**. As the name suggests, these were converted from a large old barn.
- Further along Point Road, again on the left, is another row of cottages converted from the **stable block of the bakery**.
- On the right, a few yards further on, is a cottage converted from one of the many former public houses in Avening, **The Butcher's Arms**. Its outbuildings (now demolished) were at one time used as a workshop by the Avening cobbler.
- At the junction of Point Road with the High Street is the **old bakery**. It was converted to private houses at the beginning of the 21st century, and was the last of three bakeries which existed until the outbreak of World War II. The others were located by the gates to the church and in what is now No 9 High Street.
- No 3 Point Road** was used as an undertaker's by Mr Rowland and later Mr J Fowles, who carried on business here until after the war. Looking north you will see a fine row of Gothic cottages – a good example of this mid-19th century architectural fashion.
- High Street**
On the South side is the **Baptist Church** (now private flats). Guarded by a pair of decorative wrought iron gates, it was built in 1802 for occasional preaching meetings of former members of the Shortwood Baptist meeting in Nailsworth. In 1818 it was enlarged. On completion of the alterations regular services were held, and in 1851 the average congregation was 120. In 1972 the chapel, which no longer had a settled minister, had 10 members, and eventually closed.
- The **Cross Stores** is an increasingly rare example of a village shop and Post Office, considered by many as the hub of the village.
- Beyond the shop is the site of a building which was originally another of the village pubs, the **Sawyers' Arms**, and later the Church Institute building. This was demolished in 1956 in a road improvement programme which widened the corner of High Street and Tetbury Hill.
- At the crossroads opposite the bottom of Tetbury Hill, is a Gothic **stone memorial** to another member of the Fowles family – William (1835-1896).
- Opposite is the **Cross Inn**, one of only two remaining public houses out of the many which once existed in the village.
- Star Lane**
On the south side, near the present garage to No 3, was the **workshop** used by the Avening carpenter, Mr Humphries.
- Approximately 200 yards along Star Lane, on the right, adjoining No 12, was the **old smithy**.
- A **stone stile** on the left leads across the field to Mays Lane.
- Further up the hill on the left, there is a wartime defence **type 24 pillbox**. The embrasures (tapered openings) were suitable for rifles or light machine guns. Internally there is a Y shaped anti-ricochet wall (the top of the Y nearest the entrance), which also helps support the roof. The type 24 was always built to at least bullet-proof standard of 12 inches (30 cm) thick, but often was thicker.
- Old Hill**
Old Hill was the original road to Minchinhampton.
- On the left is **Brookside House** – once occupied by Roscoe Dickenson, a pioneer of X-ray technology. Away to the east is Avening Court, the principal manor house of the village. Henry Brydges, fourth son of Lord Chandos of Sudeley, lived in Avening Court for four years up to his death in 1615. He was granted a pardon for piracy by James I in 1611. The north transept of the church contains a fine monument to Henry Brydges and is known as the Brydges Aisle.
- The **bridge** over the Avon Brook was built in the 1950s. Previously there was a raised footbridge with a ford for vehicles.
- Some way beyond the bridge, behind Rose Cottage (a good example of local architecture and craftsmanship), was a **padlock** with stables where horses could be changed or additional horses obtained to draw wagons up the hill to Minchinhampton.
- There is an **historic well** in front of Rose Cottage boundary wall and hedge.
- At this junction on the left is another converted inn, formerly the **Rising Sun**.
- Rectory Lane**
On the corner of Rectory Lane and Old Hill, by the post box set into the wall, is one of the **oldest cottages** in the village. It was built towards the end of the 17th century. The fine porch and sundial above are worthy of note.
- Further along Rectory Lane are the earliest council houses in the village, built by Tetbury RDC in 1929.
- Beyond these houses is the **playing field**.
- To the south there is a good view of the older parts of the village; Church Farm and its barns; the Holy Cross Church; and **Avening Mill**. The mill dates from the 18th century, and was originally a cloth mill, then a silk mill, and later a flour mill. It is currently a mix of light industrial units and offices, although potentially subject to a planning application to convert to residential apartments. The large mill pond, originally stretching from the present stream to within a few yards of the mill has been filled in.
- The site of another **corn mill** (now demolished) lies to the left of the lane (western end of the playing field, down Ash Path), beside the brook. As the lane turns left to join the bottom of Steps Lane, you will see Old Quarries (3) ahead. Look south west across the valley – a lovely outlook towards Nailsworth, and probably the best view of Holy Cross Church.
- At the bottom of the hill, at the junction with the High Street, towards the east is the **Memorial Hall**. Built in 1920 by public subscription as a memorial to those men from the village killed in the First World War.
- Avening Primary School** dates back to the mid 19th century. There are now four classrooms all well equipped to provide education for the 21st century. There is a garden with a pond and wildlife area, and the school uses the playing field for sporting activities. The village hall next door is used for lunch and for activities needing more space.
- The **Pike House Garage** was replaced by a small residential development (Pike House Mews) in 2004. The Pike House was a toll house on the turnpike road from Nailsworth, past Longfords, to the Cross in Avening. This road was authorised in 1822 by a private act of parliament. This road replaced the old Packhorse trail from Nailsworth through Hazelwood. It ceased to be a toll road in about 1890.
- Opposite the village hall is the **Bell Inn** – the second remaining pub in Avening.
- Star Farm** is situated on the old Packhorse trail to Tetbury, and was once an inn known as the Star and Garter.
- At the far end of Nags Head on the corner of the junction, is the former **Nags Head Inn**. It was used as a public house until the 1960s, but was then derelict until being converted into a number of houses. Take a moment to look at the decorative carving on the front wall. The holes in the carving formed entrances to beehives set between the ceiling and first floor of the old pub. A few yards up the hill on the right is a natural spring which offers a refreshing drink during a long walk.
- Beyond the cottages in Nags Head, on the right is the site of Cherington mill which supplied flour to Avening bakery. The contours of the **mill pond** dam and leat can be clearly seen.
- Longfords Mill** is set on the edge of Gatcombe Lake, the water from which powered its machinery. It was one of a number of large woollen mills which flourished in this area in the 18th and 19th centuries. Its buildings have recently been converted into a wide range of houses and apartments.
- The **Weighbridge Inn** is a beautifully situated Cotswolds pub, and home of the famous two in one pie. Originally built as a weighbridge and inn, dating back to the 17th century.
- Each year the renowned Festival of British Eventing takes place at **Gatcombe Park**, and incorporates the British Open, Intermediate and Novice Championships.
- Gatcombe House** is the spectacular home of the Princess Royal and her family.

More information and history of Avening can be found at <http://www.avening-pc.gov.uk>
Do you have a favourite walk? Email or post it to the Parish Clerk, and we might be able to include it in future editions.

