

# The Villager

A Magazine for Avening,  
Cherington and Nags Head



**September 2020**

*[editors@villagermag.online](mailto:editors@villagermag.online)*



## OPEN

Mon - Thur: 11am - 11pm

Fri - Sat: 11am - 11.30pm

Sunday: 12pm - 11pm

## LUNCH

Mon - Sat: 12pm - 2.30pm

Sunday: 12pm - 5pm

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# September 2020

If this edition of the Villager should be a little late arriving with our readers, we hope that you will forgive us. The end of the month coincides with the Bank Holiday and recently our new mail provider has been the subject of 'maintenance', making it temporarily unavailable to your Editors, hence the late delivery.

The front cover of this edition features our Primary School, which is about to reopen more fully than has been possible recently, because of all the precautions in place to deal with the pandemic. We know how hard Jane Rushton and her staff have been working to have everything ready for the new term. We wish them and all the young people of our villages well for the coming school year, not forgetting those, who will be starting 'new' at school, college or university.

Other village activities go on, with the Community Café still meeting in alternative venues. As you will see in the Community Café article this month, brilliant ideas are being looked for as to how this can continue in different ways during the autumn and winter. Jennie South would love to hear from you with your thoughts (contact details in the article).

There are also plans for what sounds like a good fun community-wide Covid-compliant event, 'September Serendipity'. See inside and the back page for details on how to attend and/or participate.

*The Villager Editors*

## The Villager Magazine

<b>Editors</b>	Jane Archer (07812 137161), Frances Conway (01453 832177) and Derrick Pierce (01453 835090).
<b>Advertising</b>	<b>editors@villagermag.online PLEASE NOTE NEW EMAIL ADDRESS!</b> Gwyneth Simpson 01453 836556
<b>Deliveries</b>	Cas Boddam-Whetham 01453 834834
<b>Deadline</b>	<b>18th of each month</b>

Read online at [www.avening-pc.gov.uk](http://www.avening-pc.gov.uk)

## Photographs in The Villager Magazine

Many thanks to **Jane Whaley** for this photo of the school. Keep sending us your photographs, especially since all the images will be in colour in the downloadable version of the Magazine

**editors@villagermag.online**

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# Regular Activities in the Villages

Event	Day	Time	Where	Contact
Line Dancing	Monday	7.30 - 9.30pm	Social Club	Social Club 01453 833760
Community Cafe	Tuesday	9.00 - 11.30am	Social Club	Jenny South 01453 883456
Churchyard tidy up	Tuesday	6.00 - 7.00pm	Holy Cross churchyard	Rev. Gerald 01453 883456
Cherington PC	Tuesday	6.00pm	Village Hall	Richard Smith
Bell Ringing	Tuesday	7.30 - 9.00pm	Church Bell Tower	Andrew 01453 835783
Line Dancing	Tuesday	8.00 - 10.00pm	Social Club	Social Club 01453 833760
Avening Youth Club	Every Tuesday term time	6.00 - 7.30pm	Memorial Hall	Rev. Gerald 01453 883456
Over 60s Lunch Club	1st Wednesday each month	12.30pm	Social Club	Christine 01453 833246
Avening Cinema Club	1st Thursday each month	7.30pm	Memorial Hall	Katy 07806 614753
Avening W.I.	2nd Thursday each month	7.30pm	Memorial Hall	Liz 01453 833803
Avening PC	3rd Thursday each month	7.30pm	Memorial Hall	Caroline 01285 380041
Summer Skittles	Friday	8.00pm	Social club	Derrick Ind 01453 835752
Charity Quiz	1st Saturday each month	8.00pm	The Bell	
Avening Angels Choir	Sunday	4.00pm	Various	Derrick Pierce 01453 835090

~~ALL CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE~~

# Contacts for the Villages

Avening and Cherington Priest	Revd. Gerald South	01453 883456
Avening & Cherington Churches Reader	Derrick Pierce	01453 835090
Avening & Cherington Cricket Club	Derrick Ind	01453 835752
Avening Angels	Derrick Pierce	01453 835090
Avening Art Group	Doreen Pierce	01453 835090
Avening Baby & Toddler group	Katy Upton	07806 614753
Avening Bell Tower Captain	Andrew Lelliott	01453 835783
Avening Church Churchwardens	Elizabeth Buchanan Elizabeth Fuller	01453 833016 01453 835067
Avening Church Flower Team	Doreen Pierce	01453 835090
Avening Church Organist	Colin Chambers	01666 880026
Avening Church PCC Treasurer	Ann Brick	01453 834311
Avening Cinema Club	Katy Upton	07806 614753
Avening Community Orchard	Pheobe Carter	pklc1@hotmail.com
Avening History Project	Jean Chatelain	01453 834713
Avening Memorial Hall		07583 073604
Avening Oil Coordinator	Frances Lindley	01453 835115
Avening Parish Council Clerk	Shani Baker	07415 039234
Avening Playgroup	Angie Heslop	01453 832695
Avening Primary School	Jane Rushton	01453 833191
Avening Silver Band	Jim Hill	01453 834438
Avening Social Club	Derrick Ind	01453 835752

Avening Youth Club	Revd. Gerald South The Door	01453 883456 01453 756745
Cherington Village Hall	Camilla Trotter	07545 054160
Cherington Parish Council Clerk	Richard Smith	Cheringtonparishcouncil @yahoo.co.uk
Cherington Church Churchwardens	John Bate-Williams Helen di Mauro	01666 503544 07796 937268
Cherington Church Flower Team	Elizabeth Workman	01285 841294
Cherington Church Organist	Elizabeth Workman	01285 841294
Cherington Church PCC Secretary	Elizabeth Workman	01285 841294
Cherington Church PCC Treasurer	Paul Cable	cabes50@yahoo.co.uk
Community Café	Jennie South	01453 883456
Community Café Crop Swap	Chandy Rodgers	Chandra.rodgers65@ gmail.com 07734 971211
Cotswold District Councillor	Richard Morgan	
Friends of Avening School	Nicky Dill	01453 833191
Over 60s Lunch Club	Christine Howell	01453 833246
South Cotswold Community Wellbeing Agent		01452 528491
Stroud Hospital	Reception	0300 421 8080
Tetbury Hospital		01666 502336
Women's Institute	Liz Knowles	01453 833803

## VILLAGE & AREA WEB SITES

**Avening Parish Council:** [www.avening-pc.gov.uk](http://www.avening-pc.gov.uk)

**Avening Church:** [www.aveningchurch.info](http://www.aveningchurch.info)

**Cherington Parish Council:** [cheringtonpc.org.uk.](http://cheringtonpc.org.uk)

**Cherington Village:** [www.cheringtonvillage.co.uk](http://www.cheringtonvillage.co.uk)

**Cotswold District Council:** [www.cotswold.gov.uk](http://www.cotswold.gov.uk)

# Letter From Avening Parish Council Leader



It's all change at the Memorial Hall – following several successful years at the helm, Eddie has decided to resign as chairman of the village hall committee. His tenure has covered the upgrading of the commercial kitchen for the school, improvements to heating and fire equipment, and his specialism in health and safety will be particularly missed. Our thanks go to Eddie for all his hard work.

The management of the hall will revert back to the PC temporarily, and while it means more work for us, it also gives an opportunity to review the priorities for the hall and how it can best serve the community when we are eventually allowed to fully use it again. We will discuss this internally initially, but then involve the key users and re-constitute the management committee as soon as possible. If you would be interested in getting involved in any capacity, do contact me or the clerk.

There's no delicate way to put this but dog poo is once again top of the complaints I receive. Children can't play on the main area of the Playing Field between the goals because of it, and believe it or not the church yard has a significant problem as well! I have asked if the PCC will consider installing a wildlife camera to monitor the situation, and we are investigating installing CCTV on the field. These are frankly ridiculous measures to catch one or two (frequent) offenders! For the person who uses the field under cover of darkness and thinks you are immune from normal standards of behaviour, your card is marked, and many people are now looking out for you – if you don't want a fine, clear up after your bloody dog!

With finances stretched and grants hard to come by, it's fantastic that the PC are stepping in to do maintenance work that would otherwise have to be paid for – the bus shelter needs its annual clean and oil, the old phone box (defibrillator) needs some TLC on the door and a re-paint, and we have the spouts for the pumps to install. Our resident handyman Patrick is leading the charge, but if you have any DIY or professional skills that we could use it would be nice to spread the load for these jobs, and many other pieces of work in the pipeline.

Just occasionally something happens that catches you off guard. Mandy is a great believer in cards and/or flowers for every occasion – I am much less of an advocate, but when I received a thank you card and lovely note from a parishioner recently it really blew me away! Small gestures really do make a difference.

If you helped with the zip wire grant appeal you will already know that we got into the finals and as a result received an extra £500 for the kitty! This was due to entirely to the work that John put in to raise awareness (and of course your support). John is now firming up quotes in readiness for grant applications for the final balance.

I am having ongoing discussions with the Environment Agency to help understand why the stream from Cherington keeps dropping to dangerous levels. We will also look at the lizzen at Westend to see if it can be plugged to allow the stream to flow properly.

Please be aware that there are some road closures in September – High Street/Nailsworth Road is closed 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>; Tetbury Hill will be closed 21<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>. Nags Head Lane to Cherington will also be closed 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>. These are for essential patching of the road surfaces.

I have received nominations for some fantastic people for the Villager of the Year award – it will be very difficult for the PC to choose a winner. I haven't had any nominations for the 12-21 and 11 and under categories, so I have extended the cut off for a couple of weeks to allow the schools to get back. If you know a worthy nominee please let me know by 11<sup>th</sup> September.

**Tony Slater – email: [chair@avening-pc.gov.uk](mailto:chair@avening-pc.gov.uk): Web: [www.avening-pc.gov.uk](http://www.avening-pc.gov.uk)**  
**For assistance contact [Covid19@avening-pc.gov.uk](mailto:Covid19@avening-pc.gov.uk) or call 07415 039234**

## Avening Mobile Post Office

**Now back in action in Avening Social Club Car Park**

Open every Tuesday 10.30 am until 12.30, although they usually have to be packing up by 12.15 ready for departure!

Carole, behind the counter, and Eric, behind the wheel, could not be more helpful and welcoming, so do save up your Post Office errands for a Tuesday morning and pop in and see them – we are so lucky to have this weekly opportunity on our doorstep. The Mobile Post Office is fully equipped with a tail lift ideal for wheelchair or mobility scooter use.

### **Some of the things we can do:**

On the van we can generally do all the things that can be done at a normal Post Office branch, (with only a few exceptions).

**Mails:** We can accept all the usual mails: domestic and international, signed for, special delivery, tracked, including both Royal Mail and Parcelforce. And of course we have stamps!

We can also process all Royal Mail Home shopping returns, e.g. Asos and Amazon returns, even the ones with just a barcode on your smartphone! And also Parcelforce Contract returns.

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# Avening and Cherington Churches



## Public Worship Continues

We are now well into the routine of Sunday services at 10.00am alternately at Avening and Cherington churches and these are, for the time being, held in the churchyard if weather permits: this enables physical distancing in a more relaxed way and there is no need for face coverings as there is now when we are inside the church building. It has been good to see so many people travelling between our villages for these services and greatly encourages the feeling that we are one Christian community. We do, however, understand that some people are, for reasons of health, unable to attend any services at present and our online worship continues for them. These may be found at:

[www.achurchnearyou.com/church/14317/](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/14317/) and [www.achurchnearyou.com/church/14319/](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/14319/). Also our churches will be open for private prayer at these times (more frequent opening would require additional cleaning which is unrealistic):

Avening: Wednesdays 2.00 to 3.30 pm

Cherington: Wednesdays 10.00 to 12.00 am

## Annual Meetings

These should have taken place in the Spring and it is now hoped that they will be held after Sunday services on 20th September at Avening and 27th September at Cherington.

As well as reviewing the past year during these gatherings we look forward to future developments and appoint our Churchwardens (all parish residents are entitled to vote for these) and members of our church councils (those on the church Electoral Roll vote for these). If you would like to be involved with either of these meetings but are not able to come please get in touch with me so that appropriate arrangements may be made for your views to be registered.

## The Coming Months

It is becoming increasing clear that the impact of the virus is far from over and there are going to be significant impacts on many of us over the next few weeks and months including loss of employment, reduced incomes and the stresses associated with changed circumstances and relationships. If there is anything you think the church may be able to do for you – even ‘just’ a listening ear – please don’t hesitate to contact us.

## Come Rain or Shine

Amongst the other unusual events of this year has been the behaviour of the weather with an extremely wet winter, a very dry hot May and some very strong winds. I am reminded of the rather light-hearted poem:

Whether the weather be fine,  
Or whether the weather be not,  
Whether the weather be cold,  
Or whether the weather be hot,  
We'll weather the weather  
Whatever the weather,  
Whether we like it or not!

For most of us the weather causes relatively minor inconveniences but let's remember others, not least our farmers, whose livelihoods are at stake. In other countries many lives are lost as a result of weather events.

There is increasing evidence that life styles in the wealthier countries of the world are influencing the weather and that the impact is greatest on those in the poorest countries.

Let us hope and pray that the underlying message of the poem is right – we will “weather the weather” but it requires action by the global human community. What can we do (or not do) to set an example?

*Gerald South, 01453 883456 gp.south@btopenworld.com*

### Forthcoming Services:

6 <sup>th</sup> Sep	10.00 am	Eucharist Service	Avening Church
13 <sup>th</sup> Sep	10.00 am	Eucharist Service	Cherington Church
20 <sup>th</sup> Sep	10.00 am	Eucharist Service*	Avening Church
27 <sup>th</sup> Sep	10.00 am	Eucharist Service*	Cherington Church
4 <sup>th</sup> Oct	10.00 am	Eucharist Service	Avening Church
10 <sup>th</sup> Oct	6.00 pm	Harvest Festival	Cherington Church
11 <sup>th</sup> Oct	10.00 am	Harvest Festival	Avening Church

\*followed by annual meeting.

### Compline Service Wednesday evenings

Our Celtic type Compline services continue on Zoom at 7.30 pm on Wednesday evenings please email [derrickcompline@gmail.com](mailto:derrickcompline@gmail.com). The link to the service will be sent to you with a copy of the service sheet

This is a short service, lasting only about 15 to 20 minutes; and is a chance for quiet prayer and contemplation.

**ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN IN**

### Revd. Gerald South

We are delighted to announce that the Bishop of Gloucester has recently extended Gerald's term of office as our parish priest to October 2021, and we take this opportunity to thank him publicly for his wonderful ministry to our villages in the last three years.

*Elizabeth Buchanan, Liz Fuller (Avening Churchwardens)  
Helen Di Mauro, John Bate-Williams (Cherington Churchwardens)*

# Farm Life



I would like to start with a thank you to the people who have written into The Villager Magazine in response to my column. I'm so pleased with the comments and I feel I am achieving what I set out to do by giving an insight into our farming life and the reasoning behind what we do and why we do it.

In reply to Sylvia Fletcher, the 'Plumpatch' is part of Court Farm and is the first field on the left going up Star Lane. I can only assume that at some point this field had a number of plum trees in it, but even my grandfather could not remember this!

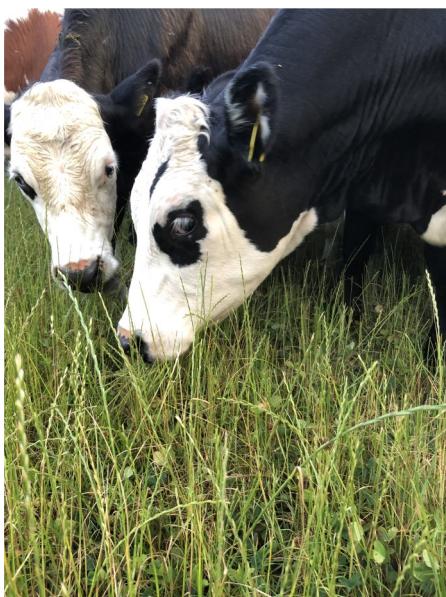
Following on from last months column where I explained our fodder making processes, we now have hay in the barn and silage bales wrapped in black plastic with only two more fields to do if the weather holds! We have estimated that due to the dry weather at the start of the year our yield is down approximately 30%. Thank goodness for the addition of the rye-grass and clover planted in the spring to buffer the loss.

Last month has been very similar to the one before and as a result our jobs have also been the same. I thought I would therefore take this opportunity to tell you a little about the commercial beef cattle we have on the farm.

Our commercial beef herd start with us buying a group of weaned calves at four months old, by this time the previous farmer has weaned them from their mother's milk and introduced them to 'hard' feed, such as cow cake (pellets) and straw. When these calves are first delivered to us in October we house them in a purpose built livestock shed where they will stay during the bad weather of the winter months. This stage of the animals life is incredibly important

and we actively manage the housing to reduce the chance of pneumonia by reducing draughts and increasing fresh air flow. We have a two week 'transition' period where we feed them exactly the same as the previous farm; this is to reduce stress as much as possible. Gradually, after this period we add our home grown hay into their diet which has a higher nutritional content. This year we have also made haylage which is a cross between hay and silage, having the benefit of a higher nutritional value than hay, but not as acidic as silage.

In the spring these calves, now eleven months old, are let out into pastures that have been rested over the winter. Here they will remain on pasture for the rest of



their time on the farm.

Our commercial beef herd comprises of two breeds – Hereford and Aberdeen Angus. Both of these breeds have been chosen for their characteristics of temperament and feed conversion ratio from grass. These breeds are defined as ‘native’ and as a result their conversion of grass to growth is high as opposed to a continental breed such as the Limousin or Simmental.

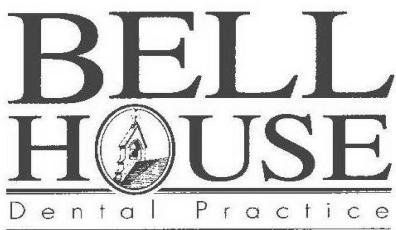
In an agricultural climate where margins are tight on a small scale herd, our ethos is to use the resources that we have readily available and to work as closely as possible with nature. These breeds allow us to utilise our main resource on the farm being grass and reduce all other inputs as much as possible. This leads me back to a previous article where I explained how we make sure that our grass is grazed in the most efficient way to reduce waste and increase biodiversity in the pastures.

I'll get to our pedigree rare-breed Gloucester cows next month! ....



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# Avening W.I.



WI members have been enjoying catching up with their family and friends as the lockdown has eased, but unfortunately we are still not able to resume our normal meetings safely. The Committee have therefore been organising some garden gatherings on a variety of themes for members to join together in small groups. Several members have offered to hold sessions including Sit and Sew, Board Games, Walks with garden refreshments, Book Reviews and Crafts including Candle Making.

Our treasurer, Pat, has been busy in lockdown not only managing our accounts, but also sorting out a Gift Aid claim on subscriptions. This has resulted in a backdated pay out which has been put towards a new replacement laptop computer for WI use.

In the last month we received the sad news that Denman College in Oxfordshire, which has provided day and residential courses for WI members since 1948, will be forced to close due to financial difficulties. Several of our members have enjoyed visits in the past and we had been due to have a group trip there this summer.

Our 90<sup>th</sup> year is certainly not turning out as we planned and the number of cancelled meetings is unprecedented since the group started, but we look forward to future celebrations and meantime we are staying safe and in touch with our members.

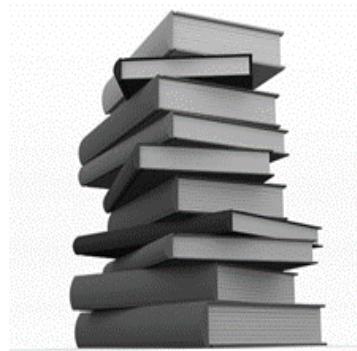
*Helen Haiselden*

## Sandford Trust

Small grants are available from the Sandford Trust, a charity for local young people going on to university or work based training. I would welcome applications from anyone living in the parish of Avening, on or before 11<sup>th</sup> September, after which the annual distribution of funds will be made.

Applications should be made in writing by the claimant to:

Mrs Kelly Wilkinson  
Larch House  
Pound Hill  
Avening  
Gloucestershire  
GL8 8LZ



# **Letter to the Editors**

## **Self-Driving Cars – Alas Not Self Controlling Dogs**

Evident every day, dog ownership is a responsibility that some rise to and others woefully do not.

Recently, three dogs, off their leads and not under their owner's control, entered our garden causing distress to one of our cats. The irony of having an over-confident ginger ninja is not lost on me but our other cat is much more timid.

I do not want to paint an incorrect picture of vicious snarling dogs, as in this instance, that was not the case. However, the very presence of the dogs in an area my cats consider safe, was enough to cause distress. In addition, the duration that the dogs were there, due to the unwillingness of the dogs' owner to recognise the situation and respond appropriately to my requests to remove them and put them on a lead, only prolonged the distress.

Unfortunately, this isn't an isolated case. Once, when I requested that a dog be put on a lead, the shrugged reply was that it was only chasing a cat. On another, a large dog chased our nineteen year old cat around our garden, and in its efforts to escape, the cat's claws were either shredded or torn off. We installed more gates and do our utmost to ensure they are always shut but the onus should be on dog control not for us to have to fortify our property.

I appreciate that there are parts of the village where houses are sparse but these are still residential areas, and surely consideration should be given to these residents and their pets.

It is a terrible shame this latest incident occurred. However, establishing effective control over your dog(s) in the tried and tested fashion of leashing, would in most cases ensure it does not happen again. In addition, it would assist in the problem of those who insist on marching ahead of their-free roaming dogs, ignoring the poo deposits behind them.

To those of you who do use a lead, as well as pay attention to where your dog is defecating, and pick up, my heartfelt thanks for considering others. For those of you that do not, look around you, there are many examples of considerate behaviour from your fellow dog walkers that you could emulate. Finally, why would you choose to do anything else?

*Robin Paget*

## **Avening Church Fete**

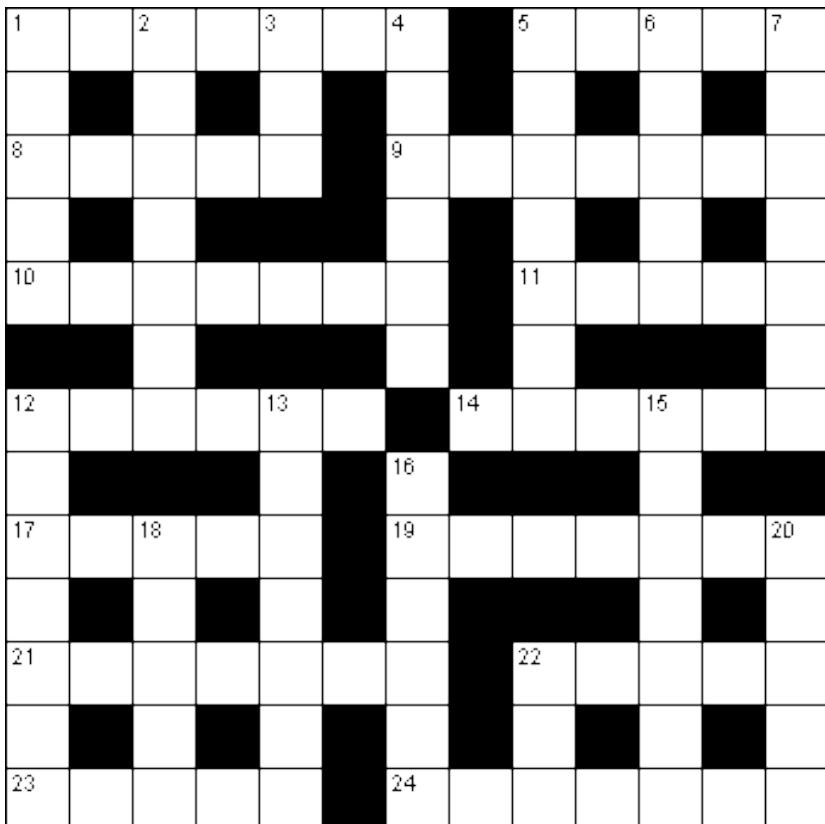
Unsurprisingly this year's Fete has been cancelled.

**NEXT YEAR THE FETE WILL BE ON SUNDAY JUNE 13<sup>th</sup>**

# Puzzle Corner

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

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## Down

- 1. Oasis (5)
- 2. More than two or three but not many (7)
- 3. Of long duration (3)
- 4. Gaped (6)
- 5. Fruit (7)
- 6. Stage whisper (5)
- 7. Machines (7)
- 12. Piece of furniture (7)
- 13. Complaint (7)

## 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*

## Across

- 1. Chronicle (7)
- 5. Proverb (5)
- 8. Graphic (5)
- 9. Cautionary advice (7)
- 10. Help grow and develop (7)
- 11. Free of impurities (5)
- 12. Neckband (6)
- 14. Systems of principles (6)
- 17. Hackneyed (5)
- 19. Facets (7)
- 21. Gullibility (7)
- 22. One of the senses (5)
- 23. Larceny (5)
- 24. Unprocessed or manufactured (7)
- 15. Tooth (7)
- 16. Ravine formed by a river (6)
- 18. Racket (5)
- 20. Hex (5)
- 22. Toddler (3)



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## SUPPORT OUR HOSPITAL APPEAL

Tetbury Hospital is under pressure due to Covid-19. Financial support is urgently needed to protect our services.



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Find out more at [www.tetburyhospital.co.uk](http://www.tetburyhospital.co.uk)

# Down Memory Lane

## Visitors From Surrey

Lisa Lewis lives near Guildford but her great grandmother, Nora, was once 'in service' at Gatcombe House and some other big houses in the area: when the family from one of them moved to Surrey, she went with them but she left behind in Avening many relatives including her parents, Arthur & Ada – they were some of the many Gloucestershire Ind's. Later Nora had daughters Ivy, Lisa's grandmother, and Eileen. Ivy and Eileen would frequently visit Avening, staying with family members during the holidays and have many memories of Avening some 80+ years ago. Ivy particularly remembers how welcoming the village children were, involving them in their games and escapades.



Ivy, Lisa and Eileen

Since then there have been family weddings and funerals at our church. Lisa kindly brought Ivy and Eileen to visit Avening at the end of July. At the church they were able to see family names on gravestones and the war memorial. They also walked to Pound Hill to see the house where their grandparents once lived. A chance meeting with Paul Vincent saw him speak to the current residents, Sue and Mike, who invited them in and gave them a tour of the house, the first time they'd been inside the house since Ada's death in 1954. They also found themselves chatting to Derrick Ind; so many reminiscences were shared. It's good to know that Avening is still as friendly as it was in the 1940s.



## British Legion Poppy Appeal

Because of the on-going coronavirus situation and to ensure the safety of both the collectors and the general public the Royal British Legion have decided that the Paper poppies will only be on sale this year at their partner outlets e.g. the supermarkets. There will be no door to door collections; however, if you would like to lay a wreath on Remembrance Sunday at the millennium cross in the churchyard, I will be ordering these very soon and do need to know as soon as possible your requirements (The recommended donation for these is £20 each). Alternatively, if you would like to make a donation to the Royal British Legion then please let me know and I will forward details to you.

Many thanks for your support over previous years.

Derrick Pierce

email [derrick.pierce@hotmail.com](mailto:derrick.pierce@hotmail.com) Tel 0153 835090 or mobile 07762 702982

## West End Farming

My name is Helen Fisher and I have lived in Avening now for the past 5 years, having lived in Somerset previously. However, my husband, Andy, has lived in Gloucestershire for 21 years, 10 of those in Avening. He is originally from Nottinghamshire. We met through our love of dogs and competing with them. Both of us have had a connection and understanding of the countryside throughout our lives.

Here at Westend Farming our ethos is ‘farm to fork’ with a low carbon foot- print and with ethical animal husbandry at the heart of our business. Our Pedigree Gloucester Old Spots, Wiltshire Horn & Easy Care Sheep, as well as our Boer Goats, are all reared naturally and allowed to root, wallow & graze at their own pace.

We are based in Westend, Avening, hence the name Westend Farming. You will often see me walking our goats down to the field if you are on a walk through the farm.

We will have pork, lamb and kid meat available at certain times of the year. Orders will be dealt with on a ‘first come first serve’ basis. Telephone orders are welcome, whilst we try to grow our business. Availability will be advertised, as and when meat comes available. Collection from the farm is preferred at pre-agreed times, to prevent congestion in the lane.

Our aim is to provide good quality local produce to our customers and build a relationship so that our customers are happy with the produce we provide.

We also attend farmers markets, where we sell free to fly quail eggs by the dozen and quail scotch eggs in five different delicious flavours. These have proved to be extremely popular with our customers and can be ordered from the farm as well. Free range chicken eggs are available too. We have an honesty box at the farm, where the eggs can be purchased.

You can always contact Helen or Andy to discuss any requirements you may have on 07723 337507 or 07734 176175, or, alternatively by email on [westendfarming@gmail.com](mailto:westendfarming@gmail.com). Updates can be found regularly on the Westend Farming Facebook page.

## September Serendipity\*

Sunday Sept 13<sup>th</sup> between 2.00pm and 5.00pm

Get out and about in Avening (keeping to the Covid guidelines current at the time)

See what some of your local community have come up with-There may be buskers and wandering minstrels, plants, gifts and other goodies.

A street map with approximate locations will be available to pick up on the day outside 6 Old Hill, 14 High St. or the Memorial Hall

\* “the occurrence and development of events by chance in a happy or beneficial way!”

# Avening Community Café

Borrowing from a recent café Facebook page post “Here’s to all of us for keeping the café spirit alive” – long (but not toooooo long) may it continue!

One of the café’s aims is ‘to provide a welcoming and inclusive social meeting place for residents and visitors’. When lockdown happened at the end of March and it was no longer possible to meet in Avening Social Club we would have fallen at the first hurdle had it not been for the generosity and enthusiasm of the whole café community. Huge thanks to the many people who have contributed in a variety of ways offering hospitality, coffee and cake in their gardens, both to café regulars and to some who are new to ‘the café’. Meeting new people, seeing different gardens and indeed seeing different views of Avening from them, sharing memories and Avening anecdotes and local knowledge are just some of the things people have said they have been enjoying. We plan to continue during September, so do get in touch if you would like an invitation or if you would like to host a garden coffee break in your garden.



Mark Kelland’s Café Garden Art Group have had four varied sessions during August. Rachel Wilson’s beautiful ‘secret garden’, a hidden Avening gem, was the main location but the group were out and about too, including a sketching in the churchyard. Rona Laycock said ‘I have enjoyed the sessions so much I have signed up for his classes at New Brewery Arts starting in September’. Many thanks to Rachel and of course to Mark for his expert and indeed inspirational teaching.

Peter Barton was delighted with the response to his request for some ‘very sociable’ gardening help maintaining the school garden in the holidays. Peter, together with Michael and Diane Metcalfe, already familiar with the set up after helping last year, have



now been joined by Gill Adams, Adrian Blenkiron, Sharon Constable, Helen Haiselden, Becca Lettin and Beverley Rymer. Cheered on and revived with Pete’s coffee and cake they have achieved great things – well done!

Produce and Preserves – don’t forget to drop and swap any spare produce and preserves outside 14 and 18 High Street on Tuesdays. Nothing to swap? – no problem, you can always make a small contribution to this year’s café charities when you are passing next time.

## Coming up in September

### Litter Pick

Once the verges have been cut back and the litter revealed ‘Litter picking Pete’ will be arranging another litter pick – volunteers needed. The date will then be advertised but if you contact Pete now (Peter Barton 07967 441792 or email [pbarton354@gmail.com](mailto:pbarton354@gmail.com)) he will get in touch to let you know where and when to gather for the picking!



### Macmillan World's Biggest Coffee Morning

Garden Coffee/Tea Breaks held anytime in the week beginning Sept 28<sup>th</sup> – people are invited to make their own arrangements and hold one in their garden to bring the ‘Macmillan World’s Biggest Coffee Morning’ to Avening, Nags Head and Cherington – all donations that week going to Macmillan either directly or via Bob and Wendy Jennings our café treasurers (in an envelope marked Macmillan) at Wingfield, Hampton Hill or ring 01453 832881) and they will arrange to pick it up from you to be forwarded to Macmillan.



### What next?

Ideas have been coming our way in response to last month’s request – thank you – keep them coming! Garden coffee break in coats and anoraks has been suggested more than once! We hope to be keeping garden coffee breaks on the agenda in some way - weather permitting.

We have made an application for a ‘Thriving Communities Grant’. If successful, we plan to use it in imaginative ways to keep the community café spirit alive and kicking in the post-Covid context. It is well recognised that social engagement and building connections enriches lives and personal wellbeing. This is always important but particularly so over the coming months with the current restrictions on socialising opportunities.

Planning for some Pop up Cafes, to refresh the litter pickers for example, is work in progress. We want to equip ourselves with a portable ‘Coffee Kit’, to get out and about, so please get your own take away mugs ready and look out for us. We don’t want to undermine our ‘green’ café principles by using disposable ones

So as you can see, the café committee continue to plan for what might be possible further ahead once ‘outdoors’ is not such an attractive option. We would love to have ideas and suggestions from you so do get in touch.

**Jennie South 01453 883456 jennie.south@btopenworld.com**

# Have Briefcase, Will Travel



Being responsible for the business-to-business division in Europe you will understand that when I received a phone call from our International VP in the USA in 1992 asking if I would not mind going to South Africa to help out our man Alan Hepka, I was astounded and even more with his comment of “well, Europe is joined to Africa at Egypt”!!!

Later that week when I had a phone call from the Botswana Government to ask if a meeting could be arranged with a representative of our company, so this was built into my up-coming visit to South Africa.

On arriving at Jan Smuts Airport in Johannesburg early in the morning I was met by Alan and driven to my hotel The Sandton Sun, a truly magnificent hotel with internal bubble lifts in a huge atrium. On the way to the hotel we kept passing groups of black men standing at junctions; it turned out they were waiting for the opportunity to get a day’s work on what is called ‘the lump’.

I had arranged a date for the meeting in Botswana so that Alan and I could drive up which was about 5 hours driving, so after several days holding meetings in Johannesburg we set out very early to drive north. We stopped after about 2 hours at a place called Rustenburg which was a large provincial town that had changed very little, since colonial days.

After leaving Rustenburg the road became very empty with just a strip of tarmacadam disappearing over the bushveld and red soil into the vastness of Africa and just the very high game fence on each side of the road to stop large game wandering into any traffic.

After about an hour’s driving the first thing of note appeared on the road. This was a typical African village with round wattle huts and as we got closer we could see a group of villagers sitting around one of the huts watching a television which was in black and white. You may not think this unusual but we are talking 28 years ago and the biggest mystery was they had no electricity, running water or sewage but could see a television in the middle of nowhere. The solution was a small portable generator and a large aerial on top of the hut, all of which I found incredible.

A further mile or so on we came upon a local man walking along in a business suit wearing a white shirt and a tie carrying a brief case but again there was something different about him and it was that he was walking in bare feet and had his shoes tied by the laces hanging around his neck. Strange and stranger, but this journey was by no means over as then in the distance against the red earth of Africa a small green spot started to appear. As we got closer the vivid green started to show some white spots until we stopped outside a war cemetery from the Boer War. It was kept immaculate by the war graves commission and had 23 English soldiers buried there from I believe a northern regiment. It was a very sobering moment to stand in the middle of Africa

with just a gentle wind blowing in complete silence and think about what happened here about ninety years ago, a quite emotional moment.

We were now in a part of South Africa known as Bophuthatswana which at the time was almost an independent state and this was where the border with Botswana was.

On approaching the border the first thing I saw was a 20ft high wire fence with barbed wire along the top and tall poles with flood lights on. We stopped and parked as we had to fill in documentation. Our car, a 3 litre Mercedes, stood out and we were the only two white men in the queue of 20 or so people. The form I had to fill out had about 50 questions including my parents' political views; as always the less developed countries have the most bureaucracy.

To get into Botswana we now had to drive via a dropped earth road with armed soldiers standing looking down from the rim onto the car, through an enormous set of gates into no-man's land and then through another huge set of gates with a huge wire fence into Botswana. For me it was like a Hollywood film set – except it did feel dangerous with a dozen soldiers just looking for a chance to fire their weapons.

Having crossed the border I was to find out things had only just begun and I was to experience a unique day in my life.

I will tell all in the next Villager.....

**David Bendall**

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# Avening Playgroup

Once again, the summer holiday was a very busy time for the staff and committee at Avening Playgroup. Just like last summer, we have used the time to complete some much needed maintenance and repairs:

- The building now has a brand new roof, so no more leaks!
- We have also painted the inside walls and moved the display boards to create a much calmer environment.
- The outer lobby wall has been painted in chalk board paint for the children to draw on.
- Staff have sorted through many of the resources and equipment so that we have our greatest resources close to hand with a calm and uncluttered feel.
- The surfaces have been cleared to give a more spacious feeling.
- The bushes and brambles are also to be cut right back before term starts.

A big thank you goes out to all the staff, committee members and their families, who helped and to the roofers, who were working on the roof in the highest temperatures of the year.

Now that the playgroup has had a good clear out and new roof, we will be concentrating on replacing the climbing frame in the playground and looking closely at new resources that will support the children in their learning.

We are currently preparing to welcome back the children, many of whom we haven't seen since lockdown in March and are looking forward to meeting the children and their families who will be starting playgroup for the first time in September.

We had a lovely send off for the children moving onto school and to say farewell to Sarah. We met at the playing fields during the first week of the summer holidays. The committee had pegged out our 2 metre spaces and the children had brought their own individual picnics with them. It was lovely to be able to say goodbye in person and we hope the children all settle in quickly and enjoy their time there.

Please note that playgroup will start back on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020 and the Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2020. We have a very welcoming committee and would be very grateful for any help or support people can offer in a whole range of areas. Please do come along to the AGM if you are a parent of a child attending the playgroup or if you are interested in supporting this vital community service.

For more information about the playgroup please call 01453 832695 (term time only) or email [aveningplaygroup@gmail.com](mailto:aveningplaygroup@gmail.com)

*Angie Heslop*



We are recruiting for an Early Years Assistant, 15-20+ hrs/week, permanent position, term time only.

We are looking for an enthusiastic, fun loving and caring person to join our team at this fantastic, local setting. Minimum of Level 2 Early Year Qualification with certificates in both Child Protection and First Aid please.

Contact Naomi on [aveningplaygroup@gmail.com](mailto:aveningplaygroup@gmail.com) for more information / an application form. *Closing date: September 12<sup>th</sup> 2020*



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# Avening School

## Back and Raring to GO!

It is so good to be almost back at school. Despite all the precautions, restrictions and additional preparations, having our pupils and staff heading back to their creative spaces for lots of exploring, investigating, developing and collaborating is so exciting. We are very much looking forward to welcoming all children, in all year groups, back to our wonderful place of learning and a particularly big welcome to all of our new children who are taking the first steps in their journey through school. We will also be welcoming two new members of staff to our amazing team: Ms Robertson who joins the teaching team in the Owls class and Mrs Harris who will be supporting in the Kestrels.

The staff have been busy over the summer break making sure that the return to school is as safe as possible. It is inevitable that school will be operating in a very different way to how we were prior to the lockdown in March. Many of the lovely things that make our school special, such as: our assemblies; Fledglings; seeing the older children look after the younger; and our open door for parents and visitors are unfortunately not possible in the current climate. However, we are likely to be living with the threat of COVID-19 for some time to come, so it is essential that we work together to follow the government guidance to ensure that we do all we can to make the school as safe as possible for everyone.

Following guidance from the Government and the Local Authority, the classes have a staggered timetable to minimise contacts and the classrooms have been rearranged to have forward facing desks. Some children will be arriving as early as 8:35am, while others not until 9:05. There is an expectation that parents will not gather around the school gate and that social distancing is maintained by everyone as much as possible.

Despite these changes and restrictions, there are going to be some wonderful things happening in the autumn term. Spending as much time out of doors continues to be recommended; therefore weekly Forest School and outdoor PE are on the timetable for each class. Day trips are allowed once again, so we have a few bookings in the pipeline. The Owls (y5/6) and Kestrels (y1/2) will be finding out about the local area in their history topics, while the Hawks (y3/4) will be going further back in time to study the Stone Age.

There will also be the usual school council elections, house captain appointments and dishing out of responsibilities throughout the school – even if the meetings of our young leaders have to happen remotely! Although many of the features of the autumn term will not be possible (Christmas is likely to look very different!), having the children back in and hearing the animated chatter and laughter ringing through the walls will be a wonderful thing for all.

**Alex Adcock**

For further information please see our school website: [www.avening.glos.sch.uk](http://www.avening.glos.sch.uk)

## Pension Credit – are you missing out?

citizens advice

Cotswold District

The recent government announcement that over 75s will only be entitled to a free television licence if they are in receipt of Pension Credit has raised awareness of this under claimed benefit. Government statistics published in February showed that only 6 out of 10 of those entitled to Pension Credit claimed it.

Pension credit is made up of 2 parts, and is designed to help pensioners on low incomes. You can still be eligible if you own your own home.

**Guarantee Credit** is intended to top up the weekly income of a single person in receipt of State Retirement Pension, whose income is below £173.75, or a couple who have both reached state pension age, and whose joint income is below £265.20. There are slightly different rules for couples where one is below state retirement age.

**Savings Credit** is an extra payment for people who have additional pensions or savings. To be entitled to Savings Credit the claimant must have reached State Retirement Pension age before 6<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

All Pension Credit claims are means-tested, however income from Attendance Allowance and Personal Independence Payments are disregarded and may allow an increase in Pension Credit payment.

If you get Guarantee Credit you may also qualify for other benefits such as Housing Benefit, Council Tax Reduction and Cold Weather Payments. You will also get help with the costs of NHS services eg free NHS dental treatment, and you can claim help towards the cost of glasses and travel to hospital.

**You will also not have to pay for your TV Licence if you are aged 75 or over.**

If you would like any more information and help with this or any other matters, please contact us on our **Confidential Freephone: 0808 800 0511 Mon to Fri 10 am to 4 pm.**

You can also check your entitlement by contacting The Pension Credit Claim line: freephone 0800 99 1234 – a friend or relative can also call for you.

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**If you know anyone who might need our help, and particularly those who do not have access to the internet, please pass on our details - we are just a phone call away.**

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## Churches Appeal



A sincere thank you to everyone who responded to our appeal in last month's Villager. Your support during these challenging times is very much appreciated.

Anyone still wanting to donate – it is not too late! –

please contact our treasurer on  
01453 834311 or [p.brick.54@btinternet.com](mailto:p.brick.54@btinternet.com)



With our thanks and best wishes,

**Elizabeth Buchanan & Liz Fuller, Churchwardens**

**Ann Brick, Treasurer**



# Avening Youth Club



The Door are now running some outdoor sessions in some of their Youth Clubs, and hopefully we will see something for Avening soon.

This is what Chair of Directors, Victoria Robson, says about their experiences over the last few months: "For many years, The Door's strapline has been Unlocking Potential and Opening Opportunity. During lockdown while this is predominantly with our service users in mind, it has also been very much the focus of our staff team's attention. Especially as we now look forward to 'unlocking' more of The Door's potential to deliver our services in our 'new normal'.

Since day one, the team have been working tirelessly across the entire charity to ensure a seamless transition of support and services. Our youthwork delivery via social media, has continued to engage young people; helping them to continue to have a safe place and sense of belonging even when stuck in their homes. Also our intensive support service for young people and parents, who have been challenged in so many ways since the restrictions were introduced, has seen a steady increase in demand. And not to forget all the incredible back office work that so easily is forgotten. Anne our administrator, for one, has been doing outstanding work keeping the team furnished with the necessary support to deliver a whole new range of services in this strange new world.

So as we start to emerge blinking into the sunlight of face to face delivery, "The Door Outdoors" if you will, the team has been working hard, planning every detail to make sure that all the sessions can be done safely, yet still keeping a hold of the 'relaxed' feel our service users expect and need."

The Door can be contacted via their website, [www.thedoorg.org.uk](http://www.thedoorg.org.uk), or @TheDoorStroud or via Facebook. Also visit the Avening Youth Club site.

**Want more information?** Contact Rev Gerald South on 883456 or Isak at The Door on 01453 756745.

## ZIP WIRE Project – Calor Grant Result

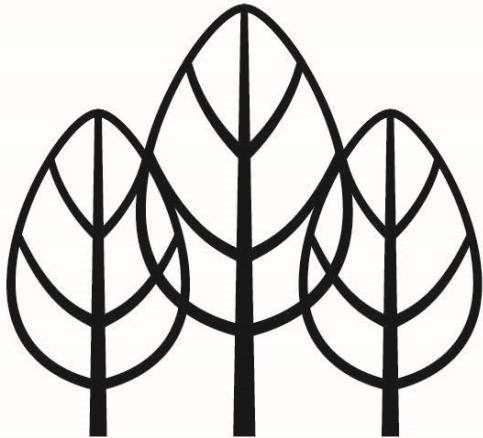
Calor issued the results of their 2020 Rural Community Fund in August and whilst we did not succeed in getting a £5,000 grant we did make it to the finals and have been awarded £500 towards our Zip Wire Project. Together with the Crowdfunder campaign we have therefore raised over £3,500 - nearly half of our target! A huge thank you to everyone who supported the campaign and made this possible.

We are now looking at ways to raise the balance to progress this project. If anyone wishes to donate to the zip wire fund, please contact me or the Parish Council Clerk.

Many thanks

*John Hetterley for Avening Parish Council*

*Email: [john@avening-pc.gov.uk](mailto:john@avening-pc.gov.uk) or [parishclerk@avening-pc.gov.uk](mailto:parishclerk@avening-pc.gov.uk)*



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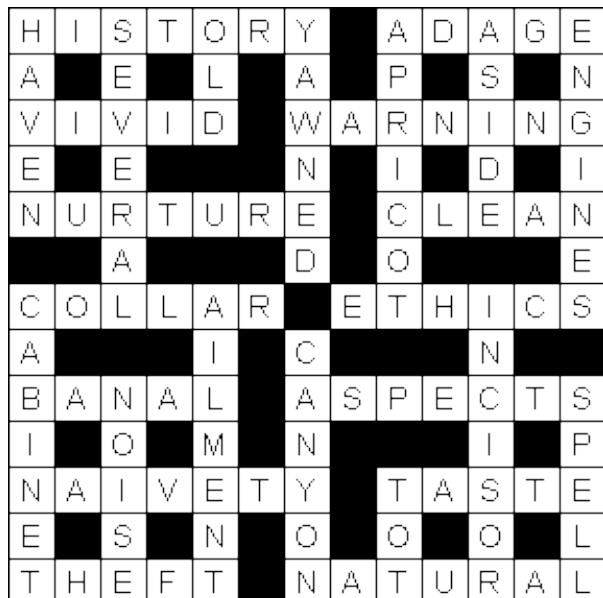
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# Puzzle Answers

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



## The Great Exhibition

This year's title:

**'LOCKDOWN'**

This is to remind you of the 'Great Exhibition' of Artwork, Projects and Accomplishments that have been achieved during 'Lockdown'.

The three day Exhibition will be held in Avening Church when people once again are free to gather together and enjoy the occasion, chat with their friends and look at the displays.

We do not know precisely when it will be held - but please don't forget. Keep Creating!

**Photographs, Drawings, Paintings, and Sculptures,**

And in a separate category: **Time for:** something new, something you have made - a project or a new skill.

Age Groups:

Children under 14 years of age:

Categories: My Family and Other Animals  
Sport  
Landscape.

Adults - from 14 years and older:

Categories: Humour  
Sport  
Capturing a Moment  
Portrait of a Person or Place.

Dates: to be announced. For more information contact George Buchanan (01453 833016) or email: buchanan.pg@gmail.com



*Looking down into the Nag's Head Valley* by Nanette Godfrey.

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# Avening Parish Council

The Parish Council Meeting via Zoom on the 19 August 2020. The meeting was open to all residents of the Parish.

## Community Support

There has been a small rise in the number of Covid-19 cases in the county. Stay safe, wash hands, and wear a mask.

Anyone with symptoms of Covid-19 can have a test, and there are several sites locally. To book a test or for more information on testing, go to the NHS website or call 119.

## Zipwire Funding

We have raised an incredible amount thanks to Cllr Hetterley. Although we didn't get a large grant from Calor, with John's hard work we got an additional £500 from them. We now have £3,800 but we will need to do some further fund raising and apply for more grants. It's not too late to donate!

## Dog Mess

Once again it has been brought to the Parish Council's attention that some people are not cleaning up after their dogs. It has got so bad in the playing field that children have been unable to play football due to it, and deposits have been left on the Church steps.

Dog mess not only unpleasant, it is dangerous. It can blind you if it gets in your eyes. Clean it up! The Parish Council have wanted to avoid installing CCTV, but this may be the only option left if it continues.

## Planning Applications and Tree Works

20/02368/FUL: Demolition of stable building and erection of extension to existing dwelling to form indoor pool and conversion of existing southern extension into an additional bedroom. **Objection** due to the habitat of rare bats.

20/02512/FUL/20/02513/LBC: Norn House, 12 Nags Head Lane – Removal of existing utility room extension and replace with utility room and cloakroom. No objections

20/02511/LBC: Norn House, 12 nags Head - Removal of wall separating kitchen and breakfast room.

20/01824/FUL: Longtree Barn – Conversion of Barn into one dwelling. No objections

20/02392/TCONR: Old Post Office, Point Road – Fell previously coppiced Horn Beam. No comments

20/002696/TCONR: Field Cottage, 9 Mays Lane - Reduce Horse Chestnut. No comments

20/02679/TCONR: 1 Pound Hill – Fell Cypress and Soboria trees to allow more light. No comments

## Decision Notices

20/02114/TCONR: Hanslo House – 3 Point Road - Reduce Yew Tree to allow more light- No Objections.

20/01569/Ful: Land Parcel, West End – Extension to existing Barn - Permitted

## Potholes

Report the potholes directly to Highways on 08000 514 514

# Time to Take Control of Lockdown Limbo!

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# Dates for your Diary

Sunday 13th September	September Serendipity	Avening Village	2.00-5.00pm
Monday 26th – Friday 30th October	Avening School Half Term		
tbc	Avening Photographic Exhibition-tbc	Avening Church	



## Church Floodlighting

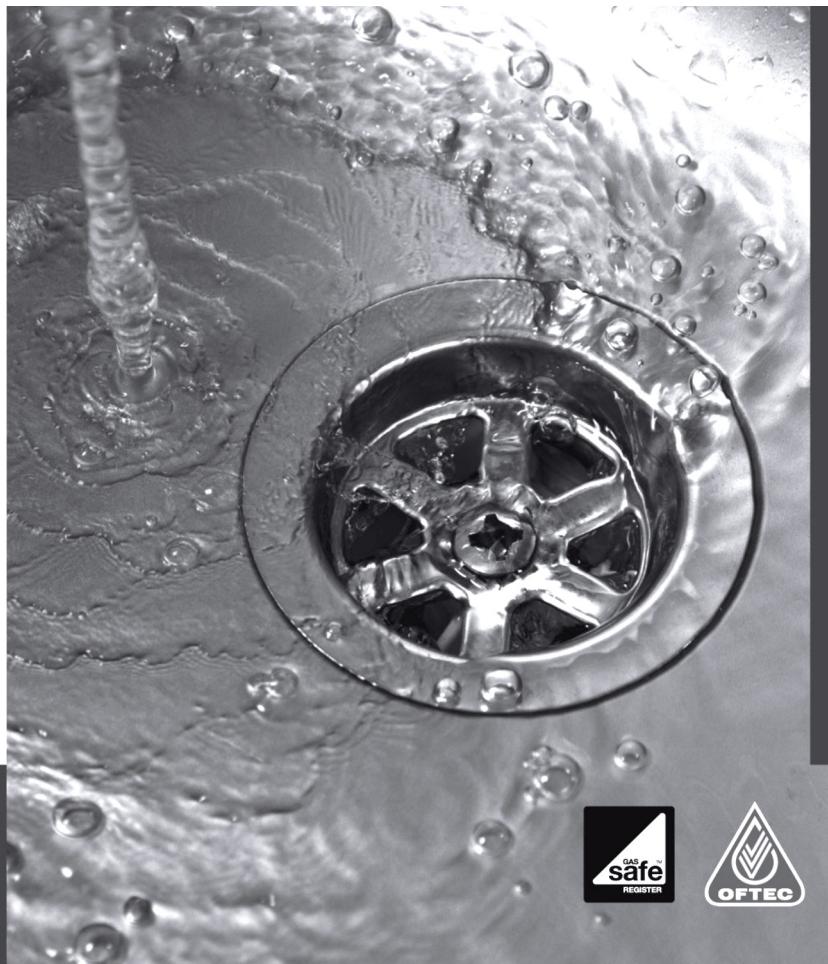
The church looks beautiful at night when floodlit. If you would like to have this in memory of a loved one, or to celebrate a special event, contact **Paul Brown 01453 835983..** The cost is £10 for 2 hours.



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# Thank you to our amazing NHS staff

#thankyouNHS



## Extra support and discount for all Frontline Key Workers

The team at Auto Bodytech want to say thank you to all the incredible emergency services, health and social care workers, for all your efforts to keep us safe and secure at this difficult time!

We are currently carrying out support and repairs to emergency vehicles but now expanding this to all key workers\*, and anybody that may need vehicle repairs.

From immediate effect we will carry out urgent repairs, offer loan vehicles and a discount of 15% to all NHS staff on your invoice or use the equivalent funds as a donation to your local NHS trust.

We are also practising social distancing with our customers and sanitising vehicles before handover.



for free, friendly, local advice, pop in or give us a call

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## An Avening Community Invitation: September Serendipity

**Sunday Sept 13<sup>th</sup> between 2.00pm and 5.00pm**

You are invited to be part of 'September Serendipity'. A chance to:

- ◆ do your own thing in your own space (or one you have borrowed from a friend or neighbour!)
- ◆ share an interest
- ◆ share a talent or skill
- ◆ sell your wares
- ◆ raise some funds for your chosen good cause

Please join in and spread the word in your own way about what you are doing and where.

Details of your approximate location will be included on a simple street map. Please send them to Gill Adams by text message on 07826 291759 by September 9<sup>th</sup>. Copies will be available to pick up on the day outside 6 Old Hill, 14 High St. or the Memorial Hall.

Keep it simple and, most important, keep to all the Covid guidelines.