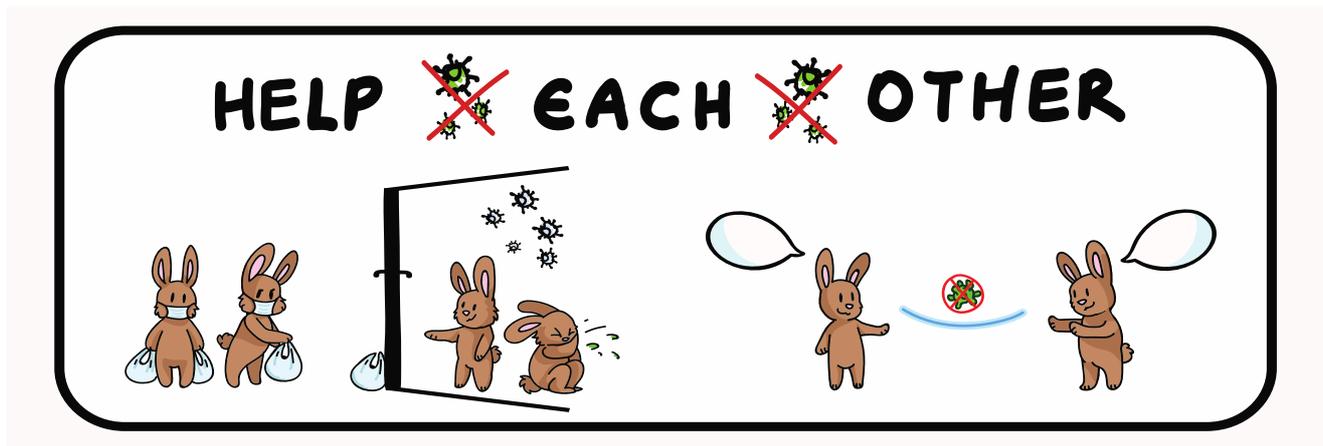


The Avening Community Coronavirus Team



Neighbourhood Network Newsletter #2



Hello!

Welcome to our second Neighbourhood Network Newsletter – we're so glad you found the first one helpful. Our sense is that while we're all adapting to this 'new normal', there are still plenty of leftfield challenges being thrown at us.....trying to find a late-night pharmacy for example, or dealing remotely with an online scam targeting your 89-year old father! But there is also plenty of good stuff going on around the village to make living in lockdown more bearable, which we wanted to share here.

There are so many ways that people in the village are helping each other. From the network of volunteers to numerous individual initiatives. **Sandra Hettlerley** baked cupcakes for the children and teachers who remain in school over the holidays, who in turn allow key frontline workers to work; **Pete Barton** began his 'five-a-day' litter pick campaign, which captured imaginations in the village and beyond; and at the request of one of the village's nurses, **Mel Young** put out an SOS for pillow cases which could be turned into laundry bags for NHS workers – and within 48 hours had more than enough to meet demand.

Around Gloucestershire

Many (but not all) organisations now have specific coronavirus pages on their websites. Gloucester County Council has set up a Community Help Hub, which has a lot of information about local organisations. It's not always easy to navigate, however – so if you have details of organisations which you have found particularly helpful, please share!

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/gloucestershires-community-help-hub/>

Gloucester Police's website has clear links to official sources of information as well as explaining how it interprets official lockdown requirements. It also gives examples of where it has intervened – and fined transgressors.

<https://www.gloucestershire.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/c19/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Our first newsletter had information on safeguarding concerns. This time, we're including some links to organisations supporting victims of domestic violence, which has been a growing source of national concern over the past few days. The Stroud Women's Refuge (01453 764385) and Gloucestershire's Domestic Abuse Support Services (<https://www.gdass.org.uk>) have information about how to get support if you need it. There is also a particularly helpful link on the Stroud Women's Refuge Page:

<https://www.womensaid.org.uk/covid-19-coronavirus-safety-advice-for-survivors/>

This week the **Avening Community Café** made donations to the Stroud Women's Refuge and the Mark Townsend Trust (see NNN #1) recognising the important contribution both are making at this difficult time. The Café Committee felt that both would welcome the funds now, rather than wait until later.

Around the Village

Avening Parish Council will be holding its first virtual council meeting on Wednesday at 7.30pm, and members of the public are welcome to join. For the agenda and link please see <https://www.avening-pc.gov.uk/pc%20minutes%20-%202020.htm>

The Friends of Avening School has set up an Easter Egg hunt around the village to help keep little ones occupied on their daily walks. Paper Easter eggs have been hidden around a small part of Avening village, for kids to find and work out the answer to the joke on the map and sheet published on their Facebook page. The paper eggs will be out until Easter Monday, so no need to rush out all at once, they will be there when you go out for your routine walks.

Many of us are finding ways of keeping fit and trying to support our local trainers and fitness studios during lockdown. The **Pulse Dursley** has a superb range of online classes to join from home (<https://www.facebook.com/thepulsedursley/>) and **Warrior and Wild** in Nailsworth has also set up live online yoga sessions (for a small fee) <https://www.warriorandwild.co.uk>. Please do let us know about other local trainers and studios which have set up online classes – this is a very tough time for them all. They support us to get fit in good times, so we need to support them to survive in tricky ones.

The Bell (836422) continues to open for takeaway Indian meals – and keeps one barrel on tap if anyone wants to add a beer (or two). Phone ahead with an order, enter through one door, leave through another and treat yourself to a night out at home. Remember too you can still buy **honey from Ian MacDonald** in Point Road.

The Avening Community Café held its first Zoom Café last Tuesday with over a dozen people joining in. We're holding a second Café Zoom next Tuesday so if you'd like a bit of virtual company with your morning cuppa, dial in! Email Clare Bebbington on ccbebbbs@gmail.com if you'd like dial-in details.

The **Café Book Club** will meet virtually next Tuesday too, discussing Jean Rhys's classic novella, *Wide Sargasso Sea* and choosing the book for May. There is a **book swap/giveaway for adults and children** outside 6 Old Hill run by Clare Bebbington and outside 44 High Street run by Sheelagh O'Kelly on behalf of the Community Cafe. The children's books remain popular, so a very big THANK YOU to everyone who has contributed books over the past few weeks. Please also consider ordering a good read from our wonderful local bookseller, **The Yellow Lighted Bookshop**: <https://yellowlightedbookshop.co.uk>. They are missing us!

There is a **plant and seed swap** outside Number 14 High Street, run by Elizabeth Buchanan on behalf of the Community Café. There is a pot for donations which will be shared between the Mark Townsend Trust and the Stroud Women's Refuge. You can also make foodbank donations of food at No. 14. All non-perishable food items welcome.

A new roadside stall has sprung up at 20 Sandford Leaze where Mel and Richard Young have organised a **DVD swap and giveaway** in case Netflix is found wanting (almost certainly!)

Avening Church itself is closed but worship of God and care for others continue.

To keep in touch with the Church you may like to go to:

www.achurchnearyou.com/church/14317/. This includes links to acts of worship, local and national, and other resources. Some of our church community are making regular phone calls to other villagers. If you would like a call or know someone who would please let Gerald South know on 01453 883456 or gp.south@btopenworld.com. This Sunday is Palm Sunday and you can collect a Palm Cross from the front garden of 14 High Street.

Finally....flour. Still tricky to get hold of in supermarkets, but **Shipton Mill**, just outside Tetbury, <https://www.shipton-mill.com>, is doing sterling service and still providing its range of bread and speciality flours for customers to collect. And....shhhh....they also have yeast....

So – enjoy the Easter bank holiday weekend. Keep your ears open for **impromptu musical treats** that happen from time to time around the village: Jim Hill's moving trombone playing and Emma Hetterley's rendition of *Somewhere Over the Rainbow* on her flute during the Thursday night applause are two of our recent favourites.

Any comments and suggestions for the newsletter, please contact Clare Bebbington (ccbebbbs@gmail.com). In the meantime: Stay safe, stay home and stay connected.

With best wishes and thanks for everything you're doing,
Avening Parish Council

Information about pharmacies and surgeries

Price's Mill surgery in Nailsworth has published a helpful summary of Easter opening hours for local pharmacies. Check out their very helpful Facebook page:

https://www.facebook.com/pricesmill/?_tn=%2CdkC-R-R&eid=ARDXn2JbzwCaRWfZts9TeWI8yl1I1D8fKXD-kxTADJ_xo_8fH5j7mvamwfpHLEoPqrvt5lQftM1Bxz&hc_ref=ARTTWbEm3accotMFpu9fO_wPngWhmFF9SUSezgqM5pTYJxYcmCsg6GZturfyRlgmBjl&fref=gs&dti=1638175509729523&hc_location=group_dialog

Most pharmacies have special Easter opening times and restricted normal business times. The opening times listed online are often out of date. **Lloyds Nailsworth** (01453 832051) and **Lloyds Tetbury** (01666 503058) open an hour later than usual, close between 1 and 2pm and close an hour earlier than their advertised opening times. **Boots Michinhampton** (01453 882146) is exceptionally busy and also has limited opening hours.

Lloyds runs an **online delivery service** for repeat prescriptions: <https://www.echo.co.uk>. However it is reporting slower than usual delivery times.

Finally, an Avening resident learned the hard way just how difficult it is to find a **late night pharmacy** at the moment. Many online details of late opening hours are inaccurate and it can be hard to get through to these pharmacies on the phone. She did eventually find a pharmacy open, the details of which we are sharing here with a BIG health warning that the information may already be out of date!

Swindon Pharmacy
Hawthorn medical centre
May Close
SN2 1UU
Tell 01793 976363

Neighbour Network News #1 included information on safeguarding, how to support older residents, details of food vouchers available from the Mark Townsend Trust and helpful links to authoritative sources of information about coronavirus, especially how to look after your mental health. An online version is on the Council website: www.avening-pc.gov.uk