

The Avening Community Coronavirus Team



Neighbourhood Network Newsletter #3



Hello!

We suspect that Lockdown Week Three has been a mix of lockdown triumphs, and lockdown disasters. For your editor, week three saw a major triumph (the first covid home haircut), set against a minor disaster (the first covid home spaniel clip). Fortunately only one looks as though he's been attacked by moths – and it's not the one who can use a mirror. If this newsletter achieves one thing, we hope that it makes the triumphs more likely, and the disasters less.

News that the lockdown has been extended was expected, but nevertheless not easy to hear. Yes, we all know we are lucky to live in such a beautiful part of the world, with plenty of open space and a great community spirit, but this doesn't mean that we don't also still feel like a private cry/rant (depending on temperament) from time to time. When it gets tough, though, we need look no further than our own village heroes for inspiration – key workers, kind neighbours and all sorts of people using old skills in new ways. One of our village heroes this week is **Beatrice Hatt**, a little girl in New Inn Lane who has set up a roadside stall for her homemade bracelets and bookmarks. Her message is simple: 'these...are for people I care about and I care about you.' We love you for that, Beatrice.

We also wanted to say a very big 'thank you' to **Tom Fryer and Amanda Sanders** for their impromptu Sandford Leaze kerbside concert; to **Gill Adams** for decorating the church gates for Easter; **Mandy Slater** for baking cupcakes for the School; and of course to the incomparable **Richard E Grant** for his wonderful *Withnail* tweets. We're also loving the

wildlife snaps and news on the Wild About Avening Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Wild-about-Avening-108807527428528/>. Hard to choose between **Peter Marciniak's** video of a grass-snake, **Dave Gardiner's** photo of a yellowhammer or the news from **Phoebe Carter** that there is clear evidence that otters are present in the stream. Heroes one and all....

Around Gloucestershire

Gloucester County Council's website continue to be a good place to access a range of information, although as we said last week, it is not always easy to navigate if you're trying to find that one nugget quickly. Here, we've focused on the information they've pulled together to help **parents and children**:

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/covid-19-information-and-advice/support-for-children-and-families-during-covid-19/>

This site includes help for new parents, advice on children's mental health, support for educating children at home, and how to keep children occupied while social-distancing or isolating. Please get in touch if you'd like to pass on advice on sources of support which you've found helpful – nothing beats a personal recommendation!

Our local county councillor, **Stephen Hirst**, sent us some useful information about how the various **utilities companies** are supporting their customers during the crisis. This may be particularly important for customers with pre-payment meters. We've put Cllr Hirst's information together with our own research to create a list of the principal utilities companies' coronavirus advice:

- <https://www.britishgas.co.uk/covid19>
- <https://www.edfenergy.com/coronavirus-advice>
- <https://www.eonenergy.com/coronavirus-update.html>
- <https://www.npower.com/help-and-support/coronavirus/>
- <https://community.scottishpower.co.uk/t5/Extra-Help/Coronavirus-COVID-19-information-for-ScottishPower-customers/ta-p/15029>
- <https://sse.co.uk/help/coronavirus-questions-and-answers>
- <https://www.ecotricity.co.uk/customer-service/coronavirus>
- <https://www.utilities.co.uk/news-and-events/covid19-update/>

Around the Village

All over the village, people are **adapting skills** to respond to these new challenges or **volunteering skills and time** to support others. One of the great privileges of putting together this newsletter is getting to hear about some of them:

One of the most talked about home-grown online events is **Amanda Sanders' Zoom Dance sessions**, which are held twice a week at 4pm on Mondays and Wednesdays. Classes are completely free but Amanda (who also runs online tutoring for primary school children https://www.facebook.com/pg/AskMrsS/photos/?tab=album&album_id=22044373632043

[26](#)) is sorting out a donations page so that people who join in can contribute to a local charity. Amanda says that 'Seeing people smiling makes my day'. And ours, Amanda!

Jade Whittingham-Hunt, who runs interior design company Thimble and Furnish, has been making scrub bags for frontline NHS workers with her daughter. If anyone is in need of any or wishes to get involved please get in touch via email on jade@thimbleandfurnish.co.uk.

If, like Jade, you are thinking about donating your skills and time to the NHS, **Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust** has put together a helpful page on what they need, including some of their technical requirements.

<https://www.gloshospitals.nhs.uk/charity/what-we-do/campaigns/donating-goods-our-covid-19-rapid-response-appeal/>. The Trust was very grateful for Avening's response to its plea for 'ear-protecting headbands' and in a letter to **Mel Young** said that they had made 'such a difference to staff wearing surgical masks during these unprecedented times'.

Cas Boddam-Whetham, Nag's Head-based chartered physiotherapist, is at the end of the phone to chat over and advise on any sprains, aches and pains, injuries or stress-related symptoms. Of course, she says, there is no charge. Her phone number is 01453 834834 and web site: www.casbw.co.uk. The spines of Avening salute you, Cas!

The Friends of Avening School has followed up its successful Easter Egg hunt with an Avening 'safari': thirteen animals are hidden along an easy walking route around the village. For the map and a spotters guide to the breeds hidden, go to their Facebook page:

https://www.facebook.com/friendsofaveningschool/?_tn=%2Cd%2CP-R&eid=ARBStlekZzN4FDjIAsrzVvGO7Ix1W0YNx6XS_QaQ7-aK3_1NiKeFti24fBdolaEvl1dCo49X4NQ-iThV

It's deadline week for **The Villager**, with the editors working hard to figure out how to publish during these days of restricted working and social isolation. They are very keen to hear from your experiences of life under lockdown – it's a great opportunity to create an archive of these strange days. Please consider sending them your photos, diary entries and day-to-day experiences – good and bad!

The Avening Community Café held its second Zoom Café last Tuesday with plenty of new faces joining in. For sheer perseverance, our favourite first timer has to be **Angela Vinson!** Café Zooms will continue as long as the lockdown does, so email **Clare Bebbington** on cbebbbs@gmail.com if you'd like dial-in details. If Zooming isn't your thing, we'd still love to catch up for a chat so email Clare or **Jennie South** on jennie.south@btopenworld.com if you'd like to stay in touch.

The **Café Book Club** has chosen its book for May: The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry by Rachel Joyce – a great pick by **Chandy Rogers**. Anyone can join in and we have copies to spare thanks to our wonderful local bookseller, **The Yellow Lighted Bookshop**: <https://yellowlightedbookshop.co.uk>.

Don't forget 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. 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. A new roadside stall has sprung up at 20 Sandford Leaze where Mel and Richard Young have organised a **DVD swap and giveaway**.

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

To keep in touch with the Church please go to:

www.achurchnearyou.com/church/14317/. This site includes an audio service each Sunday with readings, prayers and music from members of our own community and links to other 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.

The **Foodbank** collection box which is normally in church is now outside 14 High Street where donations of non-perishable items are welcomed, especially as demand is now very high. Alternatively, if you are shopping at Tetbury Tesco there is a collection box there.

Finally, we want to thank Price's Mill Surgery for highlighting the importance of reaching out if you are feeling lonely. **Guideposts Gloucestershire** can provide support: <https://guideposts.org.uk/gloucestershire-services/> and closer to home, our network of volunteers and Covid Coordinators are a fantastic resource for the village and are on hand to help wherever they can. If you don't know who your neighbourhood coordinator is, you can contact us using the covid19@avening-pc.gov.uk email or call 0741 5039234.

Any comments and suggestions for the newsletter, please contact Clare Bebbington (cbebbbs@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

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

Neighbour Network News #2 included information on support for those experiencing domestic violence, how Gloucestershire Police were interpreting the lockdown requirements and some information about local pharmacies

The Lockdown Lowdown

Each week we compile a handy list which will make life under lockdown a bit easier.

This week: takeaway food companies delivering to Avening

A number of local restaurants continue to offer takeaway food and a few will deliver to Avening. Several restaurants and pubs which were hoping to offer a takeaway and/or delivery service have now closed. Facebook pages tend to be more up to date than websites. This list is not comprehensive so if you have any more recommendations, please let us know!

In Avening

The Bell (836422) continues to open for takeaway Indian meals from 5.30 – 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. Orders are ready within 30 minutes or so.

Further afield

Amalfi Restaurant (Nailsworth) will deliver to Avening customers for orders over £50. It also offers a 50% discount to NHS and Police staff. 01453 350432. <http://amalfi-nailsworth.com>

Giuseppe's (Nailsworth) will deliver meals at cost and has developed a special menu 'to support the community' during the lockdown. Please call or text 07772305636 for orders and check out their facebook page for the menu and prices.

<https://www.facebook.com/GiuseppeGourmet/>

The Long Table (Brimscombe) is simply amazing. It has switched its dining space in Brimscombe to a kitchen preparing takeaway ready meals, with a focus to those most in need in our communities. They have provided free meals to NHS hospitals and have recently announced a partnership with the Diocese of Gloucester to provide free meals to vulnerable people in Gloucestershire <https://www.gloucester.anglican.org/2020/feeding-the-5000/>. Every meal you buy helps to fund free meals. Seven meals for £25.

Delivery is free. 01453 367499 or email meals@thelongtableonline.com. <https://www.facebook.com/TheLongTableCIC/>

The Priory Inn (Tetbury) has developed a range of boxes, which it will deliver to customers in Avening (and which are getting good reviews!). Veg boxes, salad boxes, wine and ale boxes, bread boxes, a gluten-free box and a limited kids' pizza box are just a few of their innovations. They also deliver pizzas and have a 'senior menu'. Demand is high and they ask that you fill in an online order form. 01666 502251. <https://www.orderfrom.co.uk/prioryinntetbury>