

The Avening Community Coronavirus Team



Neighbourhood Network Newsletter #6



Hello!

This week I set myself the challenge of introducing this latest newsletter without mentioning the C-Word. Not easy given the news. But as things turned out, with the 75th anniversary of VE Day, the first sighting of swifts roller-coasting above the village, a fledgling robin insistent on sharing our kitchen (not to mention the chuffing hedgehogs outside our window every night) I hadn't set the bar too high after all.

Walking around the village on Friday was a treat and a tonic. It was more than the bunting and flags. It was the chance to chat to so many people, sometimes with a glass to hand, sometimes in the company of dogs (often both). There was music (thank you **Lisa Harwood** and so many others) to lift the spirits or for tiny villagers to march to. There was the privilege of sharing our own families' VE Day memories – whether **Gilian Bulmer-Davison** reciting, word perfect, a poem she'd heard that day as a young girl to **Jennie South** or hearing **Jim Hill's** memories of getting the news about D Day when he was a pupil at Avening School. For me, **Karen Bowen-Nielsen's** tribute to her father summed it all up: with 1940s music playing in her garden she offered anyone passing a glass of wine and shared Billy Bowen's story. A 23-year old former professional footballer, Billy was a Royal Marine who ended up in Holland on VE Day, sitting in a pavement café, drinking red wine and watching the celebrations around him. He was left with a lifelong delight of pavement cafes, recapturing that moment when war ended and peace began.

So here's a heartfelt 'cheers' to Billy and his generation. And cheers to everyone in Avening for making the 75th anniversary of VE Day, a day to remember - for all the right reasons.

Around Gloucestershire

This newsletter was written before the government announced changes to the lockdown arrangements, but it looks certain that there will be a very, very small number of things that we can do during the next three weeks that we haven't been able to do in the last six.

As these changes come into effect, it's worth remembering that at the heart of the way we live our lives right now is a nasty, contagious and dangerous virus. According to figures released on Friday, Gloucestershire has 1268 confirmed cases, with 203 deaths – and there are a small number of people in the village who have been very poorly indeed.

The best source of information about the virus is of course the NHS

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>. Gloucester Royal Hospital also has a dedicated section of its website, including visiting times for the hospital:

<https://www.gloshospitals.nhs.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Local GPs are also doing their best to communicate with patients. It's worth following Price's Mill GP practice on Facebook, even if you are not a patient as they have helpful links and information on a range of health issues: <https://www.facebook.com/pricesmill>. Minchinhampton Surgery regularly updates its website: <https://www.minchsurgery.nhs.uk> as does the Phoenix Surgery in Tetbury: <https://phoenixhealthgroup-tetbury.co.uk/practice-information/covid-19>.

Most of the big health charities have created special pages, hubs and helplines for people who live with a number of different illnesses and who may be concerned about the impact of coronavirus on them. These links are also incredibly helpful for families and friends who are supporting them. We've listed four here:

British Heart Foundation: <https://www.bhf.org.uk/informationsupport/coronavirus-and-you>

Diabetes UK:

https://www.diabetes.org.uk/about_us/news/coronavirus?utm_source=google%2C%20covid-19&utm_medium=Banner&utm_campaign=banner_covid-19&utm_content=banner_link

Cancer Research UK: <https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer/cancer-in-general/coronavirus>

Asthma UK: <https://www.asthma.org.uk/advice/triggers/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Our hearts go out to the carers for whom lockdown is particularly tough. Carers UK has specific information and support which might be useful: <https://www.carersuk.org/help-and-advice/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-covid-19> The Alzheimer's Society has put together some well-being tips specifically for these difficult times:

<https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/blog/mental-health-wellbeing-tips-dementia-carers-during-coronavirus> Remember that there are a number of Dementia Friends in the village, and contact Jennie South on jennie.south@btopenworld.com or Clare Bebbington on

ccbobb@gmail.com who have trained as Dementia Friends Champions. We understand what it's like to support a person living with dementia and even if all you need is a chat, please do get in touch.

If you are shielding or self-isolating for any reason and don't have access to one of the village's neighbour support networks, you can contact us on the covid19@avening-pc.gov.uk email or via the Parish Council on 0741 5039234.

Around Avening

There should be plenty of pics from VE Day – **Elizabeth Buchanan's** bunting festooned house would make a double-page spread alone! Please do share with the editors of The Villager editors@acvillager.co.uk who will be capturing the joy and colour of the day in their next edition (deadline, May 18th).

Community Café bakers **Sandra Hetterley** and **Clare Bebbington** are still reeling from baking over 70 cupcakes and 120 scones, delivering them to over 30 different addresses in the village (with the help of **John Hetterley**, **Richard King**, **Tony and Mandy Slater** and **Bob and Wendy Jennings**) and raising over £220 for Café charities The Mark Townsend Trust and the Stroud Women's Refuge. A special 'thank you' from the Powis Lane WhatsApp group to **Jess Porter**, who contributed to our efforts with some delicious millionaire shortbread. (And yes, Sandra, I promise not to have another good idea for a while, ed!)

Helen Haiselden is the latest baker to take cupcakes to Avening School - just a small way of thanking staff and rewarding pupils for everything they are doing during lockdown. This week, one pupil, Jordan wrote a moving poem about VE Day:

<https://www.facebook.com/AveningPrimarySchool/photos/a.1332808306736311/3505123199504800/?type=3&theater> and the school is entering the Gloucestershire Rockstars Championship. The competition is running from 12-14 May, between 10am and 1 pm <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lfCXhfXA36E&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR15CLmQDBCThjAAfIVAF0v19kazzhY4UiOkq1I7hS8S2AHB9EJ-Y9HaULU>

Phoebe Carter is one of many people in the village on furlough and trying to make the best of it. As she said in a LinkedIn post, if you have a passion it's hard not to share it! As well as setting up the wonderful Wild About Avening Facebook page, and organising the Big Avening Wildlife Watch (which may feature on BBC Radio Gloucestershire next Saturday) Phoebe held a virtual Q & A with some enthusiastic MSc. students at the Royal Agricultural University on how to be nature-inclusive in rural tourism as part of her building-with-nature work: https://www.linkedin.com/posts/dr-phoebe-carter-48634074_wildlife-nature-conservation-activity-6663127544067305472-OVEg.

Last Tuesday's Café Zoom was the best yet – one high point being **Peter Barton's** tales of Avening's Morris Dancers' trip to Berlin and its performance in a German nudist camp. Phoebe will join the next Café Zoom on Tuesday morning to talk about Avening's glorious wildlife. Contact Clare on ccbobb@gmail.com for dial-in details.

As we've reported in previous editions of the newsletter, a number of volunteers have been making scrub bags and headbands for hospital staff. A letter to **Mel Young** from the Honeybourne Recovery Unit at Cheltenham Hospital thanked everyone for their efforts: 'Your thoughtfulness is much appreciated' they said.

Avening WI is celebrating its 90th anniversary this year but had to forego its planned trip to the WI's Denman's cookery, craft and lifestyle school this week. They have asked us to share an important poster which details the various support organisations for domestic, digital and other forms of abuse. We're looking for people to display it prominently as those suffering from abuse are often not in a position to ask for help from those around them. The poster is available from your Covid Coordinator or from aveningwi@gmail.com.

Six weeks ago people around the village, including **Michele and Simon Wheatley** and **James Rodgers**, stepped up to volunteer to help those less able to cope as part of the call for volunteers to support the NHS. Michele encourages anyone who needs extra support and may not be able to access anything more local to contact the service on 0808 196 3646 or via: <https://volunteering.royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk/nhs-volunteer-responders>

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 Sunday (10th) Avening Church will provide an all age service with contributions from local families including **Rayners, Barnetts, Tudors** and **Fullers**. It is the start of **Christian Aid week**, but unlike other years, the Church is unable to collect or hold a breakfast this year and this charity is much in need of funds for its work across deprived areas of our world, not least those affected by the virus. Please consider making a donation via: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/emergencies/coronavirus-emergency-appeal>. Some of the 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 is now in the front garden of 14 High Street where donations of non-perishable items are welcomed, especially as demand is now very high. Alternatively if shopping at Tetbury Tesco there is a collection box there.

And finally here's some news for four-legged residents. **Diva**, a gentle greyhound living on the High Street is sharing home-made dog biscuits, made by her family, with her canine chums. No harmful-for-dogs ingredients and all proceeds go to the Café charities via Elizabeth Buchanan's donations box at 14 High Street.

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

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

The Lockdown Lowdown

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

This week: Takeaway Treats

The Bell

Of course it's the top of our list! And we'll take this opportunity to give a big shout out to **Glynn, Andy, Jay** and the rest of the Bell's team who are doing such a brilliant job keeping us topped up with beer and the best Indian food for miles.

The Chip Shed in Minchinhampton

A firm favourite with afishionados (Geddit? I'll get my coat...). The online order form is available on <https://chipshed.co.uk/minchinhampton-fish-and-chips>, which also details payment and collection arrangements.

Tetbury Fish and Chip Shop

They are also doing takeaways, and are open on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings. Call on 01666502255 to place your order and make payments. Their menu is on their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/British-Restaurant/Tetbury-Fish-and-Chip-Shop-224980991580570/>

Hobbs House Bakery in Nailsworth

Not only delicious bread and cakes but FLOUR, people, FLOUR! They are encouraging orders by phone on 0808 1963646, although you can turn up and queue without pre-ordering, and have temporary opening hours, 9-2pm.

Ben's Chinese in Nailsworth

This is one takeaway restaurant that at the moment is only doing deliveries. Says one grateful Avening customer: "Great Chinese food and a good system. Phone order, pay by card over the phone. Took over an hour and a half to arrive because there was such high demand, but that was what they said – and it was spot on. <https://www.benstakeaway.co.uk>

Pizza Planet

Order via Just Eat on 0166650299. The verdict of one villager: 'Good pizza, reasonable delivery times even at peak times and you can order on the day'
<https://www.just-eat.co.uk/restaurants-the-pizza-planet-tetbury>

Henry's in Minchinhampton

One of our favourite local cafes has transformed into a cool hot hatch for milk, cheese, bread, cakes and other goodies. They've recently started offering Fat Toni's pizzas for those Stay at

Home Saturdays. Email your order by Friday 5pm for collection on Saturday: orderpizzahenrys@gmail.com.

Lavender Bakehouse

Oh my...take a look at their Facebook page and *feel* those pounds piling on <https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Tea-Room/Lavender-Bakehouse-Coffee-Shop-210269682317658/>. The Bakehouse does afternoon teas and has an ever-changing selection of cakes. A treat to end all treats. Email to order: email@lavenderbakehouse.co.uk

Blue Zucchini

News that the Blue Zucchini had reopened for takeaways spread fast and queues were long on Saturday morning. They are serving a range of burgers, sandwiches and cakes. All orders have to be paid for in advance by calling 01666 505852 and they will give you a timed collection slot. Their menu is available here: <https://www.instagram.com/thebluezucchini/>

Two other restaurants already recommended in our Lowdown (NNN#3) on restaurants delivering to Avening got nods from Avening fans for their takeaways too: **Amalfi** in Nailsworth (01453 350432) and the **Priory Inn** for their pizzas (01666 502251)

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.

*NN #2 included information on support for those experiencing domestic violence, how Gloucestershire Police were interpreting the lockdown requirements and some information about local pharmacies. **UPDATE:** Boots, Minchinhampton has recently extended its opening hours.*

NN #3 included information on utility companies and their responses to coronavirus, resources in Gloucestershire for parents and children and a Lockdown Lowdown on food companies delivering to Avening.

NN #4 covered sources of support to small businesses, an update on the local foodbank and the Lockdown Lowdown focused on garden suppliers.

NN5 shared details of veterinary services, and a list of local cultural events and festivals which are doing their best to keep things going online

Log on to the Avening Parish website for previous editions, or pick up hard copies from outside 6 Old Hill.