

The Avening Community Coronavirus Team



Neighbourhood Network Newsletter #8



Hello!

A little piece of magic popped through our letterbox on Thursday, just as I began to think about Newsletter #8. *Over The Moon News* is written and edited by pupils of Avening School to 'celebrate all that's good in the world and to share positive news and wonderful people'.

There has been a lot of focus on mental health during the pandemic, with charity Mind leading the way with its clear and helpful information hub <https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus/>. But even Mind would find it hard to beat the advice in *Over The Moon*: 'Spend some time looking up at the sky rather than down at your screen.'

Learning that Lego is making visors for frontline healthcare workers gave me an excuse to spend a happy half hour rummaging around their website (www.lego.com). I like knowing the Belgium Potato Growers Association is asking Belgians to eat chips twice a week. I loved finding tips about how to help hedgehogs or spot butterflies. There are games and jokes. If the news gets too depressing I can think of nothing better than switching it off, getting a packet of Smarties, separating them into colours, counting each, and discovering whether there are indeed more pink smarties in a packet than any other colour...thanks Haitham!

It's a delightful, happy read – a tribute to the junior 'hacks' who put it together and especially to headteacher Jane Rushton and the other teachers who have kept the school open throughout the school holidays. These Neighbourhood Network Newsletters have tried to support and entertain you throughout the lockdown. But if what you want is a sprinkling of fairy dust with your cornflakes, beg, borrow or steal a copy of *Over The Moon News*.

And to think, I was on the brink of writing about dentistry services....

Around Gloucestershire

Anyone who has had to cancel or postpone a wedding¹ or christening may be finding the lockdown particularly stressful. Gloucestershire County Council has put together a page detailing changes to how births and deaths are registered and what to do if you are required to produce documents to access other services (eg for child benefit or universal credit): <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/births-marriages-deaths-and-civil-partnerships/>

On 11 May, the Government said that it was examining how to enable people to gather in slightly larger groups to better facilitate small weddings. As of Friday 22nd of May, no guidance has been issued and the government website states that you cannot get married or celebrate a civil partnership 'at the moment', see <https://www.gov.uk/marriages-civil-partnerships> for updated information.

Our hearts go out to anyone who is grieving for the loss of a loved one. It's a difficult subject to tackle, but we hope that by including these links some of the practical headaches may be lessened. If someone you care about is approaching the end of their life, then the brilliant people at Marie Curie have put together a special section on their website <https://www.mariecurie.org.uk/help/support/coronavirus> to help support you during these saddest of days.

The government has produced a step-by-step guide for what to do if someone dies during the pandemic: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/support-for-the-bereaved/what-to-do-when-someone-dies-during-the-covid-19-pandemic> and the National Association of Funeral Directors has created a special section of their website explaining some of the changes to how funerals are arranged and conducted: <https://nafdcovid19.org.uk/advice-for-the-public/>

Leading charity Cruse has created a helpful and sensitive hub for anyone dealing with bereavement, <https://www.cruse.org.uk/get-help/coronavirus-dealing-bereavement-and-grief> and there is a local helpline for Cruse in Gloucestershire: 01242 252518.

If you need help with any questions about these life events and are struggling to find what you need, you can always email covid19@avening-pc.gov.uk and we will do our best to help.

With the announcement of new international quarantine rules, there will be a lot of questions about foreign travel and overseas visitors. Of the airports most often used by Avening residents, Birmingham Airport has created a good hub for information about air travel: <https://www.birminghamairport.co.uk/covid-19-updates-and-advice/#alert-1>. Bristol Airport also has helpful practical advice, but fewer links to other resources: <https://www.bristolairport.co.uk/covid-19>. Heathrow has also created a dedicated page, but it's organised as a list of frequently asked questions: <https://www.heathrow.com/customer->

¹ Reading this on Saturday 23rd? Should have been our own wedding day. We share your pain....

[support/faq/coronavirus-covid-19](#) , which in my experience is almost guaranteed not to include the one question you need answering.

On other issues, there are now too many changes to services managed by both Gloucestershire County Council and Cotswold District Council to accurately reflect here. Get a cup of tea and a comfy chair and start navigating <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk> and/or <https://www.cotswold.gov.uk>

And for all of you desperate for a dentist, sorry for the wait. All routine dental treatment has stopped but your own dentist should have information what to do in an emergency. Here's an information leaflet from Gloucestershire's Community Dental team about dealing with dental problems at home: <https://www.gloscommunitydental.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/Advice-for-Managing-Dental-Problems-at-Home-pdf.pdf>. If the pain gets too severe, print it out, fold it in four and bite down hard.

Around Avening

The Community Café is branching out with an evening of music next Monday 25th from 7.30. The sun will most definitely be over the yard-arm, so grab a glass of something chilled and lovely (or tepid and brown). dial in and chill out. Avening favourite **Tom Fryer** and the inimitable **Cas Boddam-Whetham** are confirmed performers and everyone who can hold a tune or bang a gong is invited to have a go – or just join in to listen. We're also hoping to hear what your Desert Island Discs are so please share with **Gill Adams** on gilladams27@hotmail.com and contact Gill for dial-in details as well. We'll put together a Spotify playlist just in case Avening ever gets cut off by water.

Ace baker **Stephanie Luff** made Victoria sponge cupcakes with raspberry jam and buttercream icing and decorated with butterflies to tie-in with her daughter Issie's Animal Kingdom school project. Just the right preparation for the Big Avening Wildlife Watch!

Talking of which, don't forget that it's the Big Wildlife Watch this weekend. Grab a pen and paper and simply list everything you see – birds, bugs, reptiles, mammals. Thanks to contributions to the Wild About Avening Facebook page, ecologist **Phoebe Carter** has already identified 58 different wildlife species in and around the village so let's get recording and see what else is out there! <https://www.facebook.com/events/avening-gloucestershire/big-avening-wildlife-watch/679498249465543/>

The **Rev Gerald South** is now up to 64km of his '100k in May' challenge; 26k walking mostly with **Jennie** on and around Minchinhampton Common; 36k cycling including one circuit to a coffee at Jolly Nice then to Rodmarton and Cherington in the amusing company of **John Bate-Williams**. However only two, so far, running - so that now needs some serious attention. He feels a bit guilty counting a round of golf with **Richard King** as 'walking' - but he will! He is confident that he'll exceed the 100k by 31st. Offers of sponsorship to The Door provide much encouragement and if you would like to sponsor Gerald, please make a donation to the Keep The Door fundraising page via <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fund/thedoorstroud> or use

direct bank transfer to The Door Youth Project, Account: 65374506 Sort Code: 08-92-99 - put Gerald100 as the reference.

The Community Café's *Little Book of Baking* will be sold in aid of The Mark Townsend Trust and the Stroud Women's Refuge for as long as the Café remains closed. It's beautifully illustrated by **Louise Watson**, and includes the secrets of the Café's cheese scones, VE Day baker **Sandra Hetterley's** Wimbledon Cake and flour-free cakes from **Chisholm Barnett** and **Ian MacDonald** for those tricky lockdown technical challenges. £5 a copy, and we'll deliver anywhere in the village. Contact Clare Bebbington on ccbebbbs@gmail.com.

Much has been written about care homes in the press and so we were particularly pleased to hear from Horsfall House <https://horsfallhouse.co.uk/coronavirus-covid-19> this week. Last year it celebrated 25 years of caring for the elderly but since March this year things have been very different. 'The staff are working very hard and keeping the spirits up of the residents, trying to keep life creative for them,' they told us. 'Whilst relatives and friends cannot visit, we have adapted to laptops and the website, sharing information and photographs. Our thanks go to all the dedicated people who are helping us as well as those who are supporting our fund-raising efforts and making generous donations for residents and staff – not to mention the supplies delivered by contractors and emergency services'. So here's a big shout out to Avening's **Barbara Parker, Debra Brownsall, Hayley Marciniak** and **Christine Howell** who are part of Horsfalls' dedicated team and – of course – some of the heroes we clap for on Thursdays!

Beverley Rymer and **Phoebe Carter** will be completing some preliminary work for the area at the top of the playing field this weekend which will eventually become a community orchard. Brambles will be cleared from around the existing fruit trees, paying especially attention to nesting birds and other wildlife.

Parish Councillor **John Hetterley** is cheerleader-in-chief for a Crowdfunder Project seeking funding for a new zipwire for the Play Park. Calor Gas is working with Crowdfunder and will use the level of public support to decide which projects go forward to final judging, potentially winning grants worth up to £5000 from their Rural Community Fund. This will be done on a points system: one point for a 'like' or 'share' and 10 points for each pledge (but note that each user may only support a project once). Get ready to support the project through 'liking', 'sharing' or if you are feeling generous, pledging money between 4 June and 16 July: <https://communityfund.calor.co.uk/avening-playing-field>

Jennie South and **Clare Bebbington** are now able to deliver Dementia Friends' sessions online. The 45-minute webinar aims to help participants to understand more about what it's like to live with dementia and turn that understanding into action. If you would be interested in taking part in one of these sessions, please contact Jennie on jennie.south@btopenworld.com

Avening School is staying open during half term for children of key workers. The latest copy of their magazine *The Hoot* describes the work being done to keep the school safe for EYES,

Y1 and Y6 children and staff when they return in larger numbers during June. All subject to final government approval of course:

https://www.avening.gloucs.sch.uk/docs/New_Hoot_template_20_May_2020.pdf

And finally, a few regular features:

Don't forget that the **plant stall** and **Foodbank Box** are outside 14 High Street and that there are **Community Café libraries** outside 6 Old Hill and 44 High Street.

- **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/.
- 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 know via gp.south@btopenworld.com.
- The Community Café continues to hold its **Café Zooms** from 9.30-11.15. Please join in! Contact Clare Bebbington on ccebbbs@gmail.com

This is likely to be the penultimate edition of the weekly newsletter. At the moment we are thinking about publishing fortnightly in June and then to end these regular updates. If you'd like to share your thoughts on what the next steps should be, or if you have any comments and suggestions for the remaining newsletters, please contact Clare Bebbington (ccebbbs@gmail.com). Above all, we want to stay safe and stay together!

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: A Load of Old Rubbish

It's been a big week this week. Not only were our green bins collected on Thursday morning (and full again by Thursday evening), but we also had news that the Horsley tip was re-opening (for booked slots only) on Tuesday. Because you can't learn much about local recycling bins from online sources, we also took a tour of various car parks and pull-ins to see what was still being collected. The things we do for the Lowdown....!

Rubbish and recycling in Avening

First, a shout-out to our bin men, who have stuck with it over the past nine weeks, shifting an extra 330 tonnes of rubbish during lockdown in the Cotswold District Council area alone. Listen to CDC Cabinet Member for Waste and Recycling Andrew Doherty singing their praises: <https://www.facebook.com/CotswoldDC/videos/1165525943779651/> . Hear, hear!

All your weekly rubbish questions (or rather, questions about weekly rubbish) are answered on <https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/bins-and-recycling/> as well as listing roads missed during the weekly collections. Bulky item collection is running as usual – call 01285 623123

The Terracycle recycling boxes for crisp packets and toothbrushes and toothpaste packaging which used to be at the School (supported by collections at the Café) are no longer available. Common sense suggests it is unlikely that toothbrushes will be recycled any time soon. It is worth keeping crisp packets if you can, for recycling once collections resume.

Household Waste Recycling Centres In Gloucestershire

Details are available on: <https://www.gloucestershirerecycles.com/household-recycling-centres-hrcs/> You now have to book for almost all HWRCs, so do check before you load up – and you have to be quick if you want to bag a slot anytime soon!

Nearby recycling bins (information accurate as of 21st May)

- Most clothes recycling bins are closed. This includes the Salvation Army and other bins in Tesco, Tetbury and the clothes and textile recycling bins next to Tesco in Nailsworth. The clothes and shoes bin at the junction of Spring Hill and Northfield Road is open.
- The disposable cups and coated-cardboard milk and soup carton recycling bin is open at Tesco in Tetbury. All other bins there are closed.
- The Stroud Valley's Project has suspended its packaging recycling projects.

Returning medicines

Lloyds Pharmacy in Nailsworth started taking unused medicines again last week.

Minimising waste in the first place!

A hearty cheer for **The Grocer on Church Street** who gave us flour when there was none! You can take any container and fill-up on a range of dry goods as well as things like detergent and milk from Woefeldane Dairy. They also stock bamboo toothbrushes. They allow one person in the shop at a time and for opening hours and the latest news, check out their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/TheGrocerOnChurchStreetTetbury/>

We had a chance to catch up with **Shiny Goodness** owner Gail on Friday. The shop is now open in its new location on, George St in Nailsworth with more space, a bigger range of detergents for refills, a growing range of dry goods and they also stock Woefeldane milk. Because they have been refitting the shop during lockdown, they have been able to build in some really good social distancing features: separate entrances and exits; a one-way system in the shop; and a protective screen at the cash till. For details:

<https://www.facebook.com/Shiny-Goodness-706842156339541/?rf=550729375287492>

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