



Buzz

8th December 2020

SANTA CLAUS,
CAROLS,
MULLED WINE
AND MINCE
PIES...IT'S
CHRIIIISTMAAS!

IT MIGHT not be the Christmas that many of us planned, but as ever, there is a lot going on around the village to make the season festive and special.

Sandford Leaze and Point Road groups are leading the charge on community carol singing on 20th December. The Powis Lane and Old Hill neighbour networks are getting together for a socially distanced mulled wine and mince pies street party that same weekend. The tree is up, the lights are on and FOAS and the Playgroup are hosting Santa Claus for his visit to the village this year on 20th December (from 6pm). The School's Nativity Play will be live-streamed and Avening Church has organised a Candlelight Nativity Trail on 24th December.

The Buzz will be published on 22nd December, so if there is anything else going on during the festive season - let us know!

A Busy Buchanan Bee

George Buchanan is the artist behind our busiest masthead bee yet. George, a regular Cafe volunteer, is the author of over 50 books and is currently planning an exhibition in 2021 of our projects and achievements from Lockdown.



'BRIMMING WITH TALENT'

SUE MOCHRIE'S ruffs, fascinators and burlesque wear has fans across the globe including pop superstar Ariana Grande...and it's all made in Avening. Sue, whose beautiful work is for sale on [talulahblue.etsy.com](https://www.talulahblue.etsy.com) (or contact Sue on suemochrie@hotmail.com), is part of the Made In Avening initiative to promote the village's

legions of talented craftsmen and women.

The Buzz has worked with Amanda Sanders to create The Buzz Bazaar in our centre pages and now the makers have secured a shop window to display their crafts at 48 High Street thanks to Roger and Frances Lindley. So this Christmas buy local...really, really local!

Diary

Pop-Up Cafes and Coffee Mornings at The Bell
Cancelled until further notice

12-20th December 12-3pm
Made in Avening shop window!
Come and see the beautiful crafts made in Avening at 48 High but don't knock! The makers don't live there!

13th December 12-3pm
Mulled wine and coffee at Rima's Garage Gallery
High Street, opposite No 14

Tuesdays 10.30-12.30
Mobile Post Office
Outside the Social Club

22nd December
Noah's Ark Walks
Exercise and company, two-by-two. Contact Wendy Jennings on wendyjennings2010@gmail.com

19th and 20th December
Delivery of Cafe Cake Boxes
Spread joy and calories. Orders to ccbebbbs@gmail.com. £2 a box. Orders by December 14th please.

All month
Roadside Library for readers of all ages, outside 6 Old Hill

Jigsaw Puzzle Library, run by Beverley Rymer. Call 832100 to lend or borrow!



The Buzz is published online twice a month by Avening Community Cafe.

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Benedict's fundraising takes the (dog's) biscuit

EVENINGS are busy in the Garlick household. Mornings and lunchtimes too. 'We've got an enormous whiteboard with our orders on and I bake pretty much whenever I can,' says 15-year old Benedict. 'We're doing Spook and Oscar this evening!'

Benedict is talking about his venture, Paws Against Palms, making personalised dog biscuits to raise funds for a school trip to Borneo next year. The hard work is paying off: he has raised £2000 so far against his £3500 target.

'I had all sorts of ideas for raising the money,' he says, 'but I didn't want to do something 'samey-samey'. I wanted something consumable, so people would buy more if they liked it, and figured out that dogs are so much easier to bake for than people – basically, all dogs jump at a dog biscuit!'

Benedict talks business in a way that, surely, would find favour with Alan Sugar. 'We can make dog biscuits quickly, cheaply and with a decent margin. We sent out free samples at first, looking on Facebook for dogs' birthdays and shared samples around the school staffroom.' The tactics worked so

successfully that the organisation behind the trip, Global Action, featured Benedict on its website to encourage others to think creatively about fundraising.

The Borneo trip has a serious conservation purpose: planting trees and undertaking other forestry work to help tackle the devastation caused by the extensive planting of palm trees on the fragile rainforest ecosystem. Benedict acknowledges that the issue is not a simple one. 'It's not a case of simply removing the plantations,' he says. 'To do so would threaten the livelihoods of people working in the industry. It needs to be a carefully thought-through plan. It needs research and global support.'

Meanwhile, back in the Garlick's kitchen the orders are pouring in. Dogs with simple, short names are Benedict's best customers. But his greyhound, Diva, likes complicated and long: after all, she gets to eat the spelling mistakes.

To order Benedict's dog biscuits, contact his mother Dorcas, on dorcagarlick@btinternet.com. Benedict also has a Go Fund Me page, search for Paws Against Palms to find it.

Kelly spills beans on pantomimes past (Oh Yes He Did!)



FROM Beau Veste to Sherbet Forest, Treasure Spyland to the Scarlet Wimpernel....no pun was left unintended in the 16 years of pantomimes performed in the Village Hall between 1985 and 2000.

The faces may be familiar although the hairlines less so (is that the Cafe's Hon Treasurer in the back row, left?) - and the memories are affectionate and colourful.

'It was the sheer fun of being down in the hall with everyone practising and performing which I remember most of all,' says Kelly Kellerman, who was the pantos' 'music director'

for each of the 16 performances..

The idea began with a one-off performance of Cinderella, prompted by Gill Dowding. Successful children's author Gill Playne developed new scripts (with the cast's help) and performances took place in the February half term. An alcohol licence was granted for the End of the Pier Show panto in 1988. 'We got more laughs that year,' says Kelly.

The whereabouts of those scripts are a bit of a mystery. So do get in touch if you can lay your hands on one - we know a musical director who would love to see them again!

Missing Bake Off? The Cafe can help...

If YOU'RE missing the spectacle of bakers wrestling ice-cream cakes in a tent with an ambient temperature close to that of the surface of the sun, the Cafe can help. Not only are our bakers putting on their pinnies to bake festive cake boxes for delivery on the 19th/20th December, but you can also still buy copies of the Little Book of Baking, full of recipes of the Cafe's favourite bakes (remember those??). Contact Clare on ccbbebs@gmail.com to order.



A MAN'S best friend is....a LION. Meet Atlanta Rayner's new puppy, Lion, who is being trained to be a 'therapy dog'. Atlanta has started 'walk and talk' therapy sessions on Minchinhampton Common to support people facing challenges in their lives. 'It's through communication that we find new ways forward,' says Atlanta.

People

Happy Birthday to Us

Carole and Eric have a brew for two in the mobile post office to celebrate the Cafe's second birthday.



Derrick's silver service

Big respect to Derrick Ind for reaching 25 years of service as a school governor. On behalf of pupils past and present we say a big 'thank you'!

Happy Birthday to Us (Take 2)!

Another 'thank you' to our 14 posties who delivered our second birthday gifts around the village - especially Julie Vickery who has the biggest round of all. We hope they put their feet up and enjoyed a well-earned cuppa on us afterwards!

What happens on tour...

Word reaches us that the annual '12 Pubs of Christmas' cycle ride morphed into a covid-safe 'No Pubs of Christmas' this year. I wonder though if the hangovers were the head-pounding same...

Stiff(ish) upper lip



Well done to Richard Young whose Movember efforts raised £70 for charity. But how to describe the result? Perhaps we'll just settle for 'plucky'.

Pip Morrison



SUMMER lockdown gave Pip the inspiration to paint a series of atmospheric paintings of Cherington Lake as well as work capturing the glow of sunrises and sunsets. She is now working on winter seascapes. So if you want to escape whilst within your four walls, take a look at Pip's artworks. They are all available framed in an open float mount. Prices start at £25 plus frame.

Contact Pip on 01453 836817 or mobile 07471905679



Elizabeth Oliver

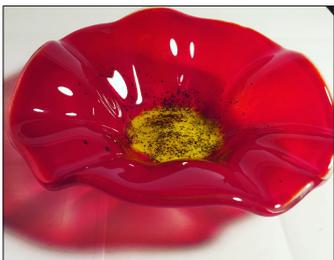
YOU won't get more local than this - from field to loom.... Elizabeth Oliver specialises in hand-spun, plant-dyed yarn from local sheep and alpaca.

This wool is not only available to buy as skeins but Elizabeth also creates gorgeous handwoven scarves and bags etc. To see more of her products and processes follow her page bettysshed on instagram. Prices available on inquiry.

Contact:
Elizabetholiver5450@btinternet.com



Jane Stimpson



WORKING with glass is Jane's craft: examples of her work are shown here. She takes commissions too. The striking red bowl is one of a kind and costs £20; similar pieces can be made in different colours. Suncatchers and pendants cost from £4. Any Christmas tree would look wonderful adorned with these snowflakes at £6 each. Contact her on jane@stimpsons.net



The Buzz

Welcome to the Buzz Bazaar, where shopping is local, price ideas, look no further - the village is brimming with talent the village. And remember: these crafts are not just for

Rima Jones

LOCAL landscape artist Rima Jones captures our beautiful countryside in intricate water-colours. Handmade Christmas cards with envelopes £1, Framed mini prints £10. Original paintings and larger mounted prints, and some framed also available. Prices on application Rima's Garage Gallery is open every Sunday from 12-3pm, opposite 17 High Street. It's really worth dropping in to view the artworks in person.



Rupert Morrison



AN ARTISTIC eye clearly runs in the family, and young Rupert Morrison (aged 10) has created a series of miniatures - and we think they're awesome.

Measuring 3"x3", each is painted on stretched canvas and comes on its own display easel. Each miniature costs £5 and Rupert will paint to order and colours can be discussed.

Contact his Mum, Pip, on 01453 836817 or mob: 0747 1905679



Paul Sanders

STUCK for a gift for that man in your life, a bike lover or someone proud of their local roots? T-shirts and mugs by Paul are available now. T-shirts (M, L, XL, XXL) in white/grey are £12; mugs £10; pennyfarthing, mountain bike and Stroud and Proud T-shirt and Mug Sets are £20. Email paul@sanderscreative.plus.com





z Bazaar

es are keen and gifts unique. If you're looking for present and buying *this* local means no extra delivery vans round or Christmas; our makers make throughout the year!

Amanda Sanders

AMANDA designs cards for all occasions that offer moments of mindfulness for the sender or the receiver. Individual cards from £3.00 each; Christmas selection packs 10 cards for £15.00. Amanda also makes lovely fabric memory rabbits (from £25), felt Christmas decorations (from £2.50) and woollen wrist-warmers (from £9). To view all her products, visit



her Facebook page Mandamay designs or contact Amanda on mandamaydesigns@gmail.com



Jess Porter



PIN AND Pearl is a gem and offers beautiful freshwater pearl earrings

handmade by Jess. Using natural and coloured baroque freshwater pearls, sterling silver plated hoops and hooks, Jess can also create custom orders, working with you to create your perfect pair of earrings. Prices start at £8. Contact Jess on 07769342321 or email jessporter98@hotmail.com



Katie Turner

MORE sparkly and shiny delights from local maker, Katie Turner. From pendant necklaces, to gorgeous sets of pearls with matching earrings, to silver earrings, colourful bracelets and funky keyrings...Katie's range of jewellery has something for everyone. She uses sterling silver, silver plate, glass beads and AAA grade pearls. To view some of her creations, visit

Katie's Facebook page Jewellery Made in Avening or contact her on katieturner664@gmail.com.



Jade Withington-Hunt

JADE works magic with fabric and has been busy fulfilling Christmas orders. Christmas crowns are £3 each and come in a range of festive fabrics, and rather than a Christmas stocking, adorn your mantel piece with one of Jade's lovely Christmas gift bags (£4 each). Beautiful personalised cushions in complimentary colours are priced on enquiry.



For further details please contact Jade by email: Jade@thimbleandfurnish.co.uk



Katy Upton



these can be personalised with hand-lettered calligraphy. Limited edition or made to order; commission work undertaken. You can view Katy's work on Facebook @lettersandlino, visit her Etsy shop www.lettersandlino.etsy.com or email lettersandlino@gmail.com or call Katy on 07806 614753.

KATY'S cards and prints are simply gorgeous. Examples include 'Leaves' and 'Autumn'. Katy, through her business Letters & Lino, creates handprinted linocut cards and prints from original designs - perfect to send as a gift or to brighten up your home! Many of



Estelle St John-Smith



reindeer. These are being made to order this year and are priced at £10. The traditional game of noughts and crosses is now available for £9: a circular wooden board, wooden pieces and beautiful woodland design backdrop. And when the summer sun returns, what better way to add some colour to your garden with these lovely sun catchers, only £9. For more information, please contact Estelle on 07817 837781.

CREATING wonderful wooden gifts is the order of the day for Estelle. Many village homes are already displaying the Wild Woodland

A FLIGHT TO REMEMBER

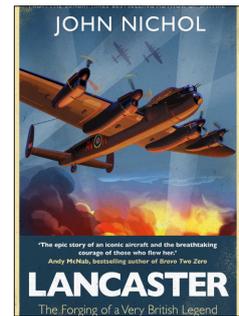
IT WAS 'one of those lockdown days this summer when nothing was going on' when David Oliver's interest in the fate of his mother's elder brother, killed in action during the Second World War re-awakened. Until then, all he had to go on was a piece of paper stating that 19 year-old Lancaster Bomber Flight Engineer Peter Lane (below)



was shot down on the night of 17/18th January 1943. His body was never found.

It didn't take David long to discover more. His uncle was part of the crew of Lancaster flight 5575, one of a Pathfinder Squadron based at RAF Woodhall Spa, returning from a bombing raid on Berlin, the ninth raid undertaken by this crew. As it flew over the Dutch coast, it was intercepted by Messerschmitt Bf110s, one flown by highly-decorated flying ace Hauptmann Ludwig Becker, who was himself killed just over a month later.

'Within five minutes I'd found out so much more about that flight,' says David. 'I even found a photograph of Becker. It's been extraordinary to share this with my mother who was



only nine when her brother was killed; it's taken 77 years for her to discover the details of his death.'

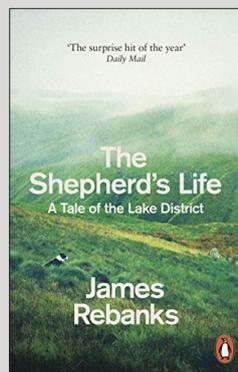
But it took John Nichol's book *Lancaster* to bring Peter's story to life. 'It is extraordinary. Nichol was a former RAF Tornado navigator who was shot down over Iraq in 1991. Maybe that's why he's been able to get under the skin of the experience of the men who flew Lancasters. Men like my uncle.'

2020: Others we have read - and loved



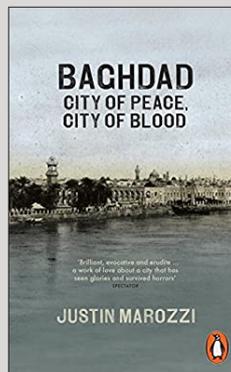
A novel which interweaves the stories of two families living in a country house, a century and a half apart. I carried this book and *A Small Life* by Hana Yanagihara around in my mind for weeks; I don't think that I have recovered yet.

Elizabeth Buchanan



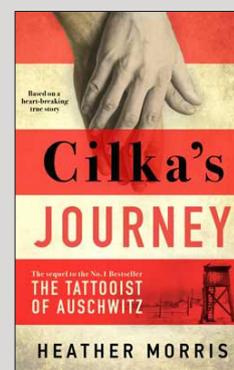
I particularly loved this book which is an eloquent description of the traditions and hardship of upland farming. It's a surprisingly passionate book from a community that doesn't flaunt its feelings. I'm looking forward to reading his new book, *English Pastoral* and hope that his cancelled talk at Nailsworth will go ahead next year.

Beverley Rymer



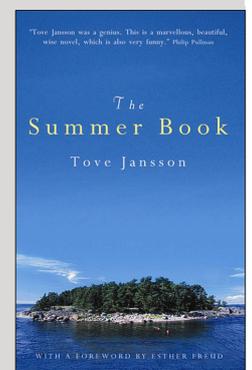
I knew very little of Iraq's history, despite being involved in a decade-long project to open a new museum in one of Saddam Hussein's former palaces in Basrah. This book remedied that, with a compelling history of the blood and beauty of Baghdad's past. Gripping.

Clare Bebbington



I loved *Cilka's Journey*, the follow up to *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* by Heather Morris. No holds barred and an incredibly personal and moving insight into the world of the gulags. It's based on a true story of a young girl who was just 16 when she was taken to the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp. Couldn't put it down.

Michele Wheatley



A series of short stories about a grandmother and her granddaughter who spend a summer on a tiny island in the Gulf of Finland - and how their relationship develops over time. It was a great book for lockdown as it involves looking at and appreciating the small things that are around you!

Sheelagh O'Kelly



Is there a more welcome sight than Rima Jones standing over a steaming pot of mulled wine? We think not (especially after we've had a few)! Rima has been selling her prints and cards of local landscapes from her garage opposite 14 High Street throughout the summer, and now on a gloomy December day the mulled wine is a welcome addition to her 'gallery'. She's opening up again on December 13th, 12-3pm so do pop along!

Felling ash only option as die-back hits valley

TALKING to Alan Watson about the recent felling of ash trees in the Nailsworth valley is sobering. 'Felling trees is heartbreaking,' says Alan, who retired as Gloucestershire's Arboriculturist just three years ago. 'Oak, beech and ash are the predominant trees here; ash dieback won't change the landscape of the valley too much as the predominant trees are beech and not all ash trees will succumb to the disease as there is much genetic variability within the species,' he adds. 'It is likely, though, that it could change the landscape of the County where there are many mature hedge and field-grown ash trees.'

Sobering, but peppered with positives. 'In four or five years we will see the woodland naturally regenerating,' he says. 'More light will get to the woodland floor and that

will benefit the beech. There will probably be other species like field maples and cherry, for example, which will take advantage of the extra light; these are the trees which make our autumns so glorious.'

Ash die-back is a fungal disease which affects the tree's crown and kills branches one by one. 'Once they die, there is a danger of them falling on the road. The County doesn't really have any option but to fell them,' says Alan.

He has plenty of advice for anyone wanting to plant a tree to help make good the loss of the ashes – no matter how small your garden. 'Rowan, holly and whitebeam are good choices; or a tree like the snowy mespil, which is a lovely little tree.' And if you don't have room to plant a tree, you can always get involved in the Community Orchard!

Make a small change and a big difference says Ellie

EVERYBODY could do with a little extra Christmas cheer this year. In Avening, we are lucky to have such a strong community spirit. Let's make this be felt more than ever before by helping each other through a Christmas like no other. What small thing could you do that would make a huge difference?

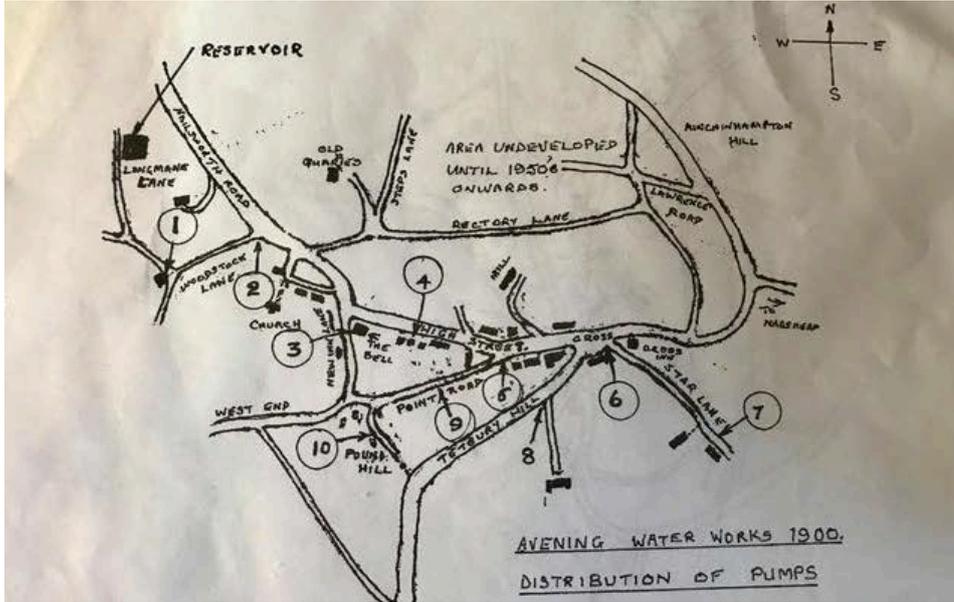
Call a friend/family member. Hearing someone's voice can mean so much more than words typed in a text.

Buy from local businesses. There's plenty of inspiration in this issue!

Donate to/buy from a charity. All donations make a difference to a sector badly affected by Covid-19.

Get creative – homemade gifts are a great way to show someone you care... and they're fun to make too!

PUMP IT UP!



THERE is plenty of variety in the Cafe's Two by Two Noah's Ark walks, including a trail around the village's Calcutt pumps (enjoyed by Bob Jennings and Buddy, pictured),

a 'pub crawl' of the sites of pubs that used to serve the thirsty of this parish, devised by Jean Chatelain and Beverley Rymer, or a ramble to the Wild Carrot for a takeaway

coffee. Details of the Calcutt pumps are on the Council's website, but we prefer this version, drawn by Riley Vincent and shared with us by Neil Boyle.

Buzz Food

Stephen's Yummy Chocolate Cake

COUNCILLOR Stephen Hirst is a keen baker and has been a good friend to the Cafe, which has benefited from County Council grants over the past two years. 'My uncle had a baker's and confectioner's business in 'Last of the Summer Wine Country', and most school holidays I helped him in the bakehouse,' Stephen told us. 'I started by greasing the loaf tins and graduated to weighing out 1lb lumps of bread dough to put in the tins. There were Eccles cakes, cream horns and custard slices by the dozen (baker's of course). It's how I learned the art of translating and improvising recipes which I really enjoy.'

Ingredients

250g butter plus a bit for greasing
250g self raising flour
300g golden caster sugar
3 heaped tbsp of cocoa
Generous pinch of bicarb
200ml Cola
75ml milk
2 eggs, beaten
Vanilla extract

For the Topping

60g of softened butter
200g sifted icing sugar
2-3 tbsp cocoa

2 tbsp Cola

For the sauce

King size caramel chocolate bar
Splash of double cream
3 tbsp mini marshmallows (optional)

Method

Pre-heat the oven to 180C / Gas Mk 4. Grease a 24cm loose bottom cake tin
Sift the flour, sugar, cocoa and bicarb into a bowl.
Gently melt the butter and Cola together in a pan. Add to the dry ingredients, with the milk, eggs and vanilla extract. Mix gently but thoroughly, then tip into the tin.
Bake for about 40 minutes or until a skewer inserted into the centre of the cake comes out clean. Cool on a wire rack for about 15 minutes while you make the topping.
To make the topping: beat the butter, icing sugar and cocoa in a bowl until blended. Beat in the Cola. Spread over the cake and allow to set.

To make the sauce: melt the chocolate bar gently in a pan with a splash of cream, then stir in the marshmallows. The sauce is rich and sweet, as is the topping, so you may want to serve with one or the other rather than both (or just go for it, Ed.).