

# The Villager

A Magazine for Avening,  
Cherington and Nags Head

**February 2025**

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# February 2025

A (rather belated) Happy New Year to everyone in Avening, Cherington and Nag's Head. We hope you all really enjoyed the Christmas and New Year festivities wherever you spent them.

Good old January is always a rather dank and dark month, returning to school and work after the nice long Christmas holidays, but there are some good things to look forward to in the village, like the special Saturday Community Café on 1st February, and the return of the Film Club; and don't forget the Youth Club is back meeting on Tuesdays for the younger members of the community.

We sadly said goodbye to a couple of villagers, including 92-year-old Jim Hill, who, as far as we can work out, was the second oldest resident of Avening. The accolade of oldest resident, we think, goes to Brian Newman, who was born a whole month before Jim in 1932 - but do let us know if we are misinformed. Jim's funeral in Avening church was very well attended and was a good reminder of the spirit of community here, with several references to how involved he was in a number of village activities such as bell-ringing and the Avening Silver Band and also how Jim's neighbours helped him in his later years. We are lucky to live in such a special place.

*The Villager Editors*

## The Villager Magazine

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## Photographs in The Villager Magazine

Many thanks to **Chris Steele** for the beautiful cover photo of a crisp, cold winter's morning on the golf course

Please keep sending us your photographs, especially since all the images will be in colour in the downloadable version of the Magazine.

[editors@villagemag.online](mailto:editors@villagemag.online)

*The Editors do not guarantee the accuracy of the information contained in this publication or accept responsibility for errors or omissions or their consequences. Opinions expressed by contributors to this publication are not necessarily those of the Editors.*

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Tetbury Hospital		01666 502336

## **VILLAGE & AREA WEB SITES**

**Avening Parish Council: [www.avening-pc.gov.uk](http://www.avening-pc.gov.uk)**

**Cherington Parish Council: [cheringtonpc.org.uk](http://cheringtonpc.org.uk).**

**Cherington Village: [www.cheringtonvillage.co.uk](http://www.cheringtonvillage.co.uk)**

**Cotswold District Council: [www.cotswold.gov.uk](http://www.cotswold.gov.uk)**

**Facebook: Avening    Instagram: #aveningvillage**

# Gilian's Poem of the Month

## Robbie Robin's Big Adventure

On an icy winter afternoon towards the close of day  
I stepped outside to feed the birds, as daylight fled away.  
I left the door wide open as I knew I'd not be long  
And as I ventured round the back I heard the robin's song  
But cheeky little Robbie, trailing an injured leg,  
Hopped inside the lighted hall to help himself instead!  
My Robbie was no stranger, he'd been inside before,  
But always knew the way back out through the open door.  
He now ignored the open door and swiftly flew inside  
To perch atop grandfather clock—a perfect place to hide!  
I showed him the open windows, I showed him the open door  
But Robbie chirruped "No thank you, I've been out in that cold before,  
In here it's warm and cosy, perfect for me to nest  
So, thank you for the offer, but to stay inside is best"  
Next he set out to explore, fluttering here and there  
Gliding around the lighted rooms, and perching everywhere.  
"Oh what a thrill", barked Rosie - dog, "to have a bird to tea  
Flitting and flying round my house, why won't he play with me?."  
Calm, unflustered all the while, Robbie showed no fear  
Perching on chair and mantelpiece - just happy to be there!  
Chirped Robbie "Catch me if you can, but I'm staying warm inside,  
There are so many lovely places where a little bird can hide!"  
After an hour of hide and seek - such a jolly game!  
With Rob on candlestick and clock or on a picture frame,  
I then enlisted Michael's help, he's taller far than me -  
But Michael could not catch him, and still he fluttered free!  
At last there came a lucky break, with Rob shut in one room,  
Perched nonchalantly by the glass to stare out at the gloom  
Mike swiftly reached beyond him, to fling the windows wide  
And Robbie tiring of the game flew casually outside.....  
Next morning early when I woke I opened up the door,  
And there was Robbie waiting just like every day before  
I'd felt so mean to turn him out into that icy night  
To struggle round with his injured leg - although he'd seemed alright  
I'd tossed and turned to think of him and worried all night long  
But there he was, as usual, to greet me with his song.....

*Gilian Bulmer-Davison*

# Dates for your Diary

Come along and join in the fun at any of the events below - everyone is always welcome! Both the Memorial Hall & Social Club can also be hired for private functions

Date	Event	Location	Time
Saturday 8 February	Cash Bingo	Social Club	7.30pm for 8pm start
Saturday 22 February	Knead Bakery van	Outside the Memorial Hall	10.45-11.15am
Saturday 22 February	Fun Skittles (now held on the last Saturday each month)	Social Club	7.30pm for 8pm start
Wednesday 26 February	Cinema Club showing The Critic	Memorial Hall	7.30pm
Saturday 8th March	Cherington Litter Pick	Village Green	9.00am
Monday 10th March	Community Café AGM	Social Club Lounge	7.00pm

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# Avening and Cherington Churches



I'm not sure that many of us would say that February is our favourite month. The days are still short, the weather is still cold, and the trees are still bare... surely winter should be over by now?! Yet while it may not be my favourite month, February does have something going for it as it begins with one of my favourite festivals: Candlemas.

Candlemas – also known as The Presentation of Christ in the Temple – marks forty days since the birth of Christ with, as the name suggests, his presentation in the Temple. The act of bringing the child into the Temple was required by Levitical law, and symbolised both a thanksgiving for the life of that child and their mother's 'cleansing'. In the Christian church, Candlemas is a celebration of all that Jesus' presentation reveals about his identity. It's the culmination of forty days of exploring who Jesus is, which began by celebrating that God dwelt with us and ends with two faithful people affirming that he is the Messiah. Simeon, a 'righteous and devout' man (Luke 2.25), and Anna, 'a prophet' (Luke 2.36) have both lived their lives in service of God, and now they are able to see him face-to-face and hold him in their arms.

Sadly Anna's words aren't recorded, so we'll never know what she says, but we do know that Simeon thanks God that he has 'seen your salvation' in the face of the child he holds, who is 'a light for the revelation to the Gentiles' (Luke 2.30-31). Simeon's words hold the key to understanding the name of this celebration, Candlemas, and its association with light today. Traditionally, candles which would be used in churches and homes throughout the year would be brought to the service – Mass – and blessed by the priest. Though this tradition has mostly faded away, Anna and Simeon's recognition of Jesus Christ as 'a light for the revelation to the Gentiles' holds fast. It's a day when we celebrate the light of God's love shining in the face of a child, and the joy that comes with seeing that light for ourselves. In the middle of the cold and gloom of winter, the joy of Candlemas shines brightly, drawing us in just as the star drew the magi on a journey to worship a newborn king. May the light of love draw each of us into his joy this Candlemas.

*Natalie*



## Donations to Avening Church

Donations towards the upkeep and running of Avening Church can be made at any time either by using the QR code here or on the card machine just inside the church door



## Church Services

	AVENING	CHERINGTON
2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb. (Candlemas) 10 am	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion
9 <sup>th</sup> Feb. 10 am	Holy Communion	No Service
16 <sup>th</sup> Feb. 10 am	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion
23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb. 10 am	Holy Communion	No Service
2 <sup>nd</sup> March 10 am	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion

## Church Floodlighting



### The church was floodlit on:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> December** For **Joan Newman**, with lots of love, Brian, Mary, Molly and family.
- 7<sup>th</sup> December** In memory of **Nick Holford**, a much loved friend.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> December** In memory of **Eric Roberts**: all our love, Lynne, Tom, Mantha and family. Remembering you especially on your birthday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December.
- 23<sup>rd</sup> December** In memory of **Sylvia Fletcher**, loving mother. Val, Celia and John.
- 15<sup>th</sup> January** In loving memory of **Jim Hill**. Musician, friend and gentleman.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> January** In memory of **Basil Fletcher** loving father. Miss you Dad. Val, Celia and John. Dad and Mum are now permanent residents with you.
- 29<sup>th</sup> January** In loving memory of the **Vincent** and **Beard** families .

### And will be floodlit on:

- 19<sup>th</sup> February** In memory of **Michael Powell** who captured England's green and pleasant land on celluloid. We celebrate the humanity in his films – Thelma, Kevin and Columba.

The church looks beautiful at night when floodlit. If you would like to have this in memory of a loved one, or to celebrate a special event, contact **Piers Hansen on 07770 745642**. The cost is £10 for 2 hours.

# Letter from Chairman of Avening Parish Council



As another year begins with all our hopes, resolutions and optimism for the months ahead, I must reflect with sadness on the recent loss of two of our villagers; - Jim Hill and Derek Woodman. Both Jim and Derek were true natives of Avening and now take their place in village history. I send their friends and relatives my deepest condolences on the sad loss of these two true gentlemen.

**Face Masks:** The arrival of winter this time appears to have brought outbreaks of flu and other respiratory conditions and we can already see the hospitals returning to the practice of wearing surgical face masks. With this in mind and being aware that masks can be expensive items to purchase, I'm very pleased to announce that the Parish Council has secured a significant quantity of masks that we are able to offer free to the community of Avening. The supply of these masks is due to the generosity of Marlowe Environmental Services based in Gloucester and with the help of Bob Scurfield who works in that company. The plan is to make them available either by being available to collect from the Tuesday Café or simply by phoning one of the parish councillors to make arrangements. In the first instance it will most likely be the best idea if you text me on 07713068436. There is the saying that 'There is always an end to plenty', so spread the word about their availability, but please use sparingly in order to prolong the offer.

**Snow Clearing and Grit Supplies:** No apologies for another reminder that the grit bins will not be replenished during this winter or spring due to council cutbacks, and we must use the existing grit sparingly. A little can go a long way – it just needs time to act on the ice and snow. I have placed notices in all the bins to this effect. The most efficient method for clearing serious snow on the side roads/hills is by using the village gritter – this is stored in the small shed adjacent to the Memorial Hall.

**Affordable Houses, Lawrence Road:** The year got off to a very good start with the official opening of the eleven new affordable homes on Lawrence Road by HRH The Princess Royal. The event was well attended by various dignitaries involved in the scheme and The Princess Royal took time to meet some of the residents and tour their houses. One pleasing aspect of the development is that many of the new residents, having local connections, already know each other and therefore a true community spirit is already established. The properties are attractive and blend into the landscape.



*Holly Vickery and her partner Cameron meet Princess Anne.*

Congratulations to all the residents and I wish them every happiness in their new homes.

**Knead Bakery:** This will again be visiting Avening on a regular basis, adjacent to the Memorial Hall. The next visit will be on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 10.45 until 11.15.

Congratulations to everyone who made New Year resolutions and are still sticking to them. I look forward to 2025 being a positive year for the whole village and welcome any feedback to the Parish Council that you feel appropriate.

I send every villager best wishes and prosperity for 2025.

Keep safe and look out for neighbours who may need assistance.

**Patrick Mulligan** 07713068436



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# District Councillor's Report



**Cotswold District Council:** The latest full council meeting was rather dull with mainly procedural issues on the agenda, but it was enlivened by several questions from the opposition group of councillors with several points reported widely in the local press and social media. As well as specific questions on collections (see below), we also questioned how 'green' the recycling programme really is. Cardboard recycled in the Cotswolds is being sent to Malaysia raising concerns over the carbon footprint of sending the material more than 6,600 miles away. Paper and cardboard collected in the district is first processed at the Thamesdown recycling depot at Cricklade, and is then transported to Palm Paper in Norfolk where it is processed. But the cardboard is sent on to Muda Paper Mills in Malaysia to be made into new products, according to the council's website. We also challenged the costs associated with the recent CDC re-brand – the written response stated £20k had been spent (so far), but papers at the meeting showed £40k in total was earmarked.

**Bins:** Collection issues have mostly been resolved, so my question at CDC related to the many complaints in my inbox concerning the untidy (and on occasion, dangerous) state that the crews leave the plethora of recycling bags and boxes after collection. I was told that the new public reporting system for collection issues will accommodate this problem, and any reports will be fed directly back to the crew concerned – the date for rollout of the system is TBC. My follow up question raised the possibility of a review and simplification of the multiple recycling bags and boxes when the new waste contract is negotiated. I highlighted that the explosion of online shopping has rendered the blue cardboard sack unfit for purpose. I was assured by the new cabinet member that everything was up for review – I will watch developments closely.

**Storms:** Our district has recently been impacted by storms 'Bert' and 'Darragh' – Bert caused significant localised flooding, and Darragh's winds caused many fallen trees and blocked roads. The flooding is not helped by a lack of basic maintenance of drains and gulleys on our road network, and I have highlighted this again to Glos. Highways. I hope you have not been badly affected by the storms, and any damage is not too severe.

**Housing:** I attended the 'grand opening' in January of the mixed social/affordable housing development in Avening. When I was leading Avening PC we opposed the development on several grounds, but once approved I fought to make the homes as 'green' as possible. The designs were eventually improved, but they could have been much better for a small extra investment. However, we welcome the additional opportunity for locals to stay in the village and hope they are settling into their new homes.

You may have seen that the Government has decided that local councils will be merged into larger unitary authorities, perhaps with an elected mayor, and that the current system of County and District councils will no longer exist. Gloucestershire currently has a two-tier council structure made up of Gloucestershire County Council and beneath that, six district councils: Gloucester, Cheltenham, Stroud, Tewkesbury, the Cotswolds, and the Forest of Dean. The Government's aim is to devolve more power to these new

authorities, and in turn Parish Councils may be afforded additional responsibilities. In the short-term, legislation is being prepared to postpone the County elections in May so that councils can forge the relationships with their chosen partners. In Gloucestershire's case there are several options being considered – join the existing West of England Combined Authority (WECA) which covers Bristol, South Gloucestershire and Bath and Northeast Somerset (BANES); it could look to form a new authority with either Swindon and Wiltshire; or linking with Herefordshire and Worcestershire to the north. Doing nothing is not an option, so I am glad to hear that GCC are on the front foot when choosing new partners. To me it makes more sense to take the last option and partner with other largely rural communities, and it would mean Gloucestershire would be the biggest and senior authority. I have significant reservations that the reorganisation will give more powers locally, but my biggest concern is cost, and who will pay for the transition. Cotswold District Council have written to the Government to object to the changes, and more specifically the cancellation of the May elections.

**Gloucestershire County Council (GCC):** I had the pleasure of showing Stephan Fifield around Grumbolds Ash – Stephan is the deputy leader of GCC and has taken over the local responsibilities of Stephen Hirst due to his ongoing health issues. We looked at the more serious ongoing issues with our local roads, including potholes, drainage, inappropriate speed limits. We also covered flooding, and other important issues in the parishes – these issues will all be fed back to the appropriate departments at GCC and will hopefully produce actions in the future. Stephan will attend future Parish meetings wherever possible.

**Litter:** On a post-Christmas walk with my wife, we came across a discarded McDonalds meal bag. On opening it, we discovered a receipt from KFC with the date, time, and server. I passed this information on to the fly-tipping officer at CDC who is now working with both food retailers to cross-reference the transactions with the vehicle details of the purchaser, which will hopefully lead to a fine of up to £500 for the person who dropped it! The message is simple – just take your rubbish home and dispose of it properly.

I wish all my readers a prosperous New Year.

***Councillor Tony Slater***

*Cotswold District Council, Representing Grumbolds Ash with Avening.*

*email: [Tony.slater@cotswold.gov.uk](mailto:Tony.slater@cotswold.gov.uk) Tel: 07793669930*



## **Avening Youth Club**



The Youth Club which is organised by The Door, is held every Tuesday in term time **6.30-8pm** in the Memorial Hall.

All children aged 8 to 14 are welcome and there is **NO CHARGE!**

# Puzzle Corner

6			1	5	4		3	7
	3				2	6	1	
	1	4				9		
			2	1	3			
9		2		6		1		3
			5	4	9			
		1				8	6	
	7	9	8				5	
5	8		4	9	1			2

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## Sudoku

Fill in the blank squares so that each row, each column and each 3-by-3 block contain all of the digits 1 - 9.

If you use logic you can solve the puzzle without guesswork.

**Answers on page 38**

**New Year 'To Do' List**

- Buy new uniform/work wear/shoes
- New work diary
- New books!
- Arrange bus fares
- Laptop? > get necessary equipment!

**ACEEF!\***

**\*The Avening Church of England Education Fund have the means to financially support the education of Avening residents up to age 25. To apply, please contact 01453 833016 or email [buchanan.el@gmail.com](mailto:buchanan.el@gmail.com)**

# Letter to the Editors

Dear Editors,

Funding the Church of England:

In November last year 'Civitas', an independent think tank, published research into the funding priorities of the Church of England. It showed very clearly that the central funding of local parish Churches was being steadily eroded to a point where community Parish Churches have had to close, and vicars are shared between multiple parishes, with obvious and damaging consequences.

The report is entitled: 'Restoring the Value of Parishes: The foundations of welfare, community and spiritual belonging in England'. It is a free download.

Some of us in Avening and Cherington are worried by this trend, and I am proposing that we hold one or two meetings in Avening to discuss the report, and its implications for us, and for the future of the Church.

If you would like to attend we will be delighted to see you. Please get in touch with me - George Buchanan - and I will send you a link, a brief resume of the report, and some other relevant material.

Best of all would be a note to say you might be interested in coming to the meeting - and I will arrange it!

I hope to hear from you!

**George Buchanan**  
*buchanan.pg@gmail.com.*

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# Remembering Jim Hill

4 July 1932 - 19th December 2024

Eulogy by Richard Ind, Jim's cousin

I just wanted to start by thanking you all for being here today. It's amazing to see so many gathered here to pay their respects and celebrate the life of Jim. The family have also been very touched by the many kind comments and messages we have received both direct and also on the Avening Facebook page.

There's a saying 'that you can tell the measure of a man by how many people were at his funeral'. The full Church here is proof of that.

As many of you will know Jim was a gentle man who quietly got on with life, not wanting to make a fuss but play his part where he could. I don't think he quite appreciated the impact he had on the village and would be very humbled by the turn out today. Thank you everyone it means a lot to me and the family.

So where do I begin in summarising the long life that Jim had – 92 years is a lot to capture in a few minutes which I'll try to do and hope I cover some of those key moments. I've also appreciated many of you sending in your thoughts/memories, so thank you, I haven't been able to mention them all but hopefully I have captured the essence of what has been shared.

What I will share in the next few moments is some of Jim's passions, which will cover Wild Swimming, The Band, his Garden, The Band, Music, Bell-ringing and The Band. As you will discover music and the Bands will be a common thread!

To begin with, Jim was born on the 4th July 1932, the son and only child of Robert and Winifred Hill. He was born within a stones' throw of this church in No. 16, Woodstock Lane. The family then moved less than 50 yards to No. 4, Hilltop, Woodstock Lane where Jim lived for 81 years. Whilst not having siblings, Jim had several cousins on both his father's side of the family and his mother's. This is where I come in, as Pat Ind (my mum) is Jim's first cousin.

Something Jim learnt from an early age from his parents, was 'growing your own vegetables' and a love for the garden, and he continued this throughout his life – I've personally enjoyed an array of produce from his garden and I'm sure many others have to. He spent many hours in his garden over the years and many of you would no doubt have had a chat over the wall with him in the days he spent tending it. He always had time to chat with passers-by young or old.

He went to Avening School and back in the summer he was recalling some of his memories at the Community Café about his time there. One memory was at the time WW2 broke out – school was closed for 2 weeks (yeh!!) but then reopened as all the teachers were local and could walk to work. Also at this time a trench was dug from the





top of the High Street down to the field below the church to stop any tanks from taking over the village! Thankfully this was never needed and the first winter saw it filling up with water from the stream which became a swimming pool for the local lads, to Jim's great amusement. He also recalled there being more fish in that trench than in Cherington Lake!

And this must have been his inspiration for what also became a lifelong activity - Jim was the original 'wild swimmer' (something that has become quite popular these days), regularly cycling up to Cherington lake or driving to the gravel pits for a dip. On trips away or to the seaside he'd always take a towel so he could go for a dip in the sea, in rivers or lakes. Swimming in Cherington lake continued until recent years and it was suggested that maybe some caution should be taken here as a 90yr old swimming alone in a remote lake might have any health and safety officer catching their breath, but Jim's response to this was 'well I can think of worse ways to go.'

Back to his schooling – Jim left primary school at 11yrs old and went to the Stroud Technical School, before leaving school at 14 (common in that era) and joining Johnsons Engineering in Nailsworth as an Apprentice.

Being part of the church community was always a part of Jim's life and that's where one of his other passions began, as a 'bell-ringer' at 13 years old. His grandfather George Edmunds had also been a bellringer and he taught Jim the art of campanology . 76 yrs of bell-ringing earned him an award in 2022 from the Gloucester and Bristol Diocese Association – Stroud branch, for his long standing service.

At a similar age to when he started bellringing Jim also joined the Avening Silver Band where he played the cornet. He had found his true lifelong passion: music, something he picked up and got involved with, teaching himself and becoming very proficient in playing a number of instruments by ear.



After his apprenticeship at Johnsons, Jim did his National Service and this is where his passion for music really took off. When doing his National Service Jim wanted to join the Band but was not allowed to initially, until one day a note was pinned to the notice board that read.....Private Hill report to the bandroom ASAP. On arrival the Sergeant-Major said "Hill, we need you for a parade" whilst passing Jim a trombone. "Oh," Jim said with dismay, "I don't play the trombone!" To which the Sergeant-Major shouted "Well, you know how to hold the damn thing just get on with it"!!!. Needless to say Jim soon taught himself to play the trombone!

This 'opportunity' also meant he was sent to the Nether Bull Military School of Music, where he learnt and developed his passion for music more than ever. After his 2-year stint of National Service the Military Band wanted Jim to stay on and continue playing, but Jim, being a home bird, decided he wanted to return to Avening.

On returning home he resumed his working life at Johnsons for a short while, then moved to Fenworths (another Nailsworth engineering company) followed by a stint of helping his mate plumbing before taking up the role of storeman at Aston Down in the 80's until his retirement.

He also resumed his place in the Avening Silver Band and soon after became a Founder member of the Roy Kirby Paragon Jazz Band, (along with Roy Kirby who passed away in 2010). This jazz band employed the services of dozens of musicians over the years, which meant they had one of the largest repertoires of tunes in the country.

Jim also helped out with various other Silver Bands in the area, such as Cirencester, Chalford, Nailsworth and others. His participation in all these bands took him far and wide and abroad, across many towns and villages in Europe. In the early seventies besides dance bands, jazz bands and brass bands Jim along with Ken Wear also played regularly in the orchestra pit at the Everyman theatre in Cheltenham.

The bands and music have been very much a key part of his life and here are a couple of memories / things to mention which you may not have been aware of....

1. He always had his trombone in his car in case he could have a blow, no matter what type of music.
2. Jim and the Avening Silver Band have always been well respected and loved in Bisley. The band is an important part of the procession for the dressing of the wells on Ascension Day, and it creates an amazing atmosphere for Bisley Flower Show and Fete. In 2022, Jim was asked to officially open Bisley Flower Show and Fete and crown the flower queen and king, in recognition of his 90th birthday and the years that he and Avening Silver Band had played at the event.
3. Jim played double bass and often the Band played at the Cheltenham Races. On one occasion a rather worse for wear racegoer fell on his double bass and damaged it to such an extent that he had to get a replacement one. Luckily this was witnessed by a policeman who made the culprit empty his wallet to pay Jim for the damage – luckily the man had had a few winners on the day.
4. Jim's reputation for all things music was such that, along with another good friend Jim Parsons, over the years they became synonymous with any playing of music in the village and surrounding areas. If you had an event or occasion where you needed music – you just had to call the 'The Two Jims!'
5. And more recently during COVID, Jim also took to playing one of his instruments 'to the village' – from his front doorstep, garden or the church yard – his own contribution to lifting people's spirits during what was a very difficult period. Those musical notes rang through the village.

It's great to see the Avening Silver Band being very much part of this service today and also for the special remembrance event we enjoyed just before Christmas outside the Bell – thank you all for your support, Jim would have been so pleased.

As the years have gone by Jim has become very much a part of the Avening Community, part of the church, the many social events and fetes, popping along to the pubs for a

pint, attending the Community Café in recent years. He has also been recognised over the years for his part in the Community, from being Volunteer of the Year and also being nominated for an Unsung Hero Award.

Overall, Jim enjoyed a long and full life until the summer of 2024, when he was sadly diagnosed with cancer. But he continued to do what he could during these last 6 months, enjoying his trips out with Michael in the camper van, up on to the Common for a cappuccino or ice cream or enjoying the company of his wonderful friends along at Woodstock and the Community Café at the Social Club. Thank you to everyone for keeping an eye on Jim over these last few months it was very much appreciated.

In the last stages of his illness Jim was cared for in Horsfall House and continued to enjoy visitors from the village right to the end. We would like to thank Horsfall House for their kindness and care during the time Jim spent there

So that's just a brief snapshot of Jim's life and as I come to a close, I'd like to take a quote from villager John Green: "An Avening oak tree has been felled."

Jim has been a special part of this village for so long but he is now resting in peace and no doubt joining the band up there in the sky.

***Richard Ind***



*Cas Boddam-Whetham recorded some of Jim's wartime memories during a conversation with him in July last year:*

Jim was 8 years old when World II started. He recalled listening to the radio with his parents for news. He remembered the Land Army building Pill boxes up Star Lane in case the Germans invaded. Also a trench was dug from the top of the high street down to the field below the church to stop any German tanks taking over the village! Once, when the trench froze over, a member of the home guard threw a grenade onto the ice to break it up. Quite an explosion!

The RAF was billeted in Avening Court and Avening House. American forces were stationed at Minchinhampton but would march through Avening to dump unwanted uniforms and equipment in a local quarry, from which Jim and his mates would pick up badges etc.

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# Getting Together in December



*The Nativity scene at December's Crib Service*



*Lighting the Christmas Tree*



*Wreath making at the Community Café*



*Carol singing in The Bell*



*The Avening Band remembering Jim Hill*

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# Avening School

## Sweet Summer Songs

Sea-spray, like diamonds, diamonds arching overhead,  
Whilst brave feet dare the salty waves,  
Each child happy and content,  
Eating sweet cold ice-cream in a cone,  
Talking adults laze on warm gold sand.

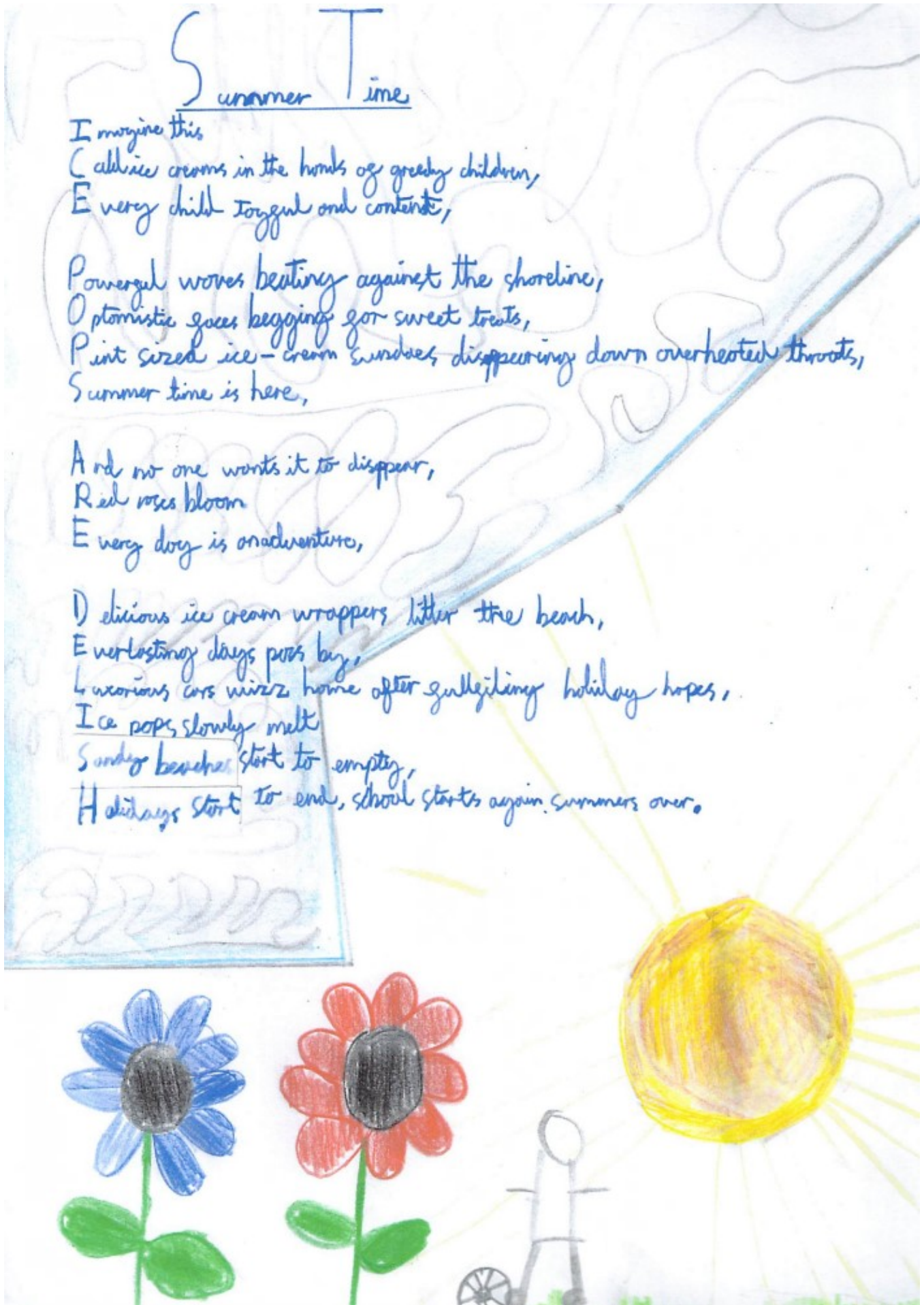
Songs, dancing over green, green grass,  
Under a blue, blue sky,  
Meaty hands clasping little hands,  
Merry faces with happy, happy smiles,  
Everyone spinning on the warm, warm soil,  
Racing down soft green hills.

Shady spaces under wide, wide trees,  
Outside, the air is filled with honeysuckle's sweet aroma,  
Never-ceasing laughs from campfires near,  
Grinning faces in evening's soft light,  
Sweet summer songs played from a car window.





There is no school report this month, instead please enjoy these poems by 2 pupils of Avening School, Sweet Summer Songs by Leonora and Summer Time by Ilyas.



## Summer Time

I magine this  
C all ice creams in the hands of greedy children,  
E very child joyful and content,

P owerful waves beating against the shoreline,  
O ptimistic faces begging for sweet treats,  
P int sized ice-cream sandwiches disappearing down overheated throats,  
S ummer time is here,

A nd no one wants it to disappear,  
R ed roses bloom  
E very day is an adventure,

D elicious ice cream wrappers litter the beach,  
E verlasting days pass by,  
L uxurious cars wizz home after gullible holiday hopes,  
I ce pops slowly melt  
S andy beaches start to empty,  
H olidays start to end, school starts again. Summers over.



# Avening Playgroup



It has been lovely to welcome the children back after the Christmas holiday. We spent the first week settling back into the playgroup routine and reminding ourselves of the playgroup rules. We also looked at ourselves – painting and drawing our self-portraits, as well thinking about how and what we were feeling.

With the cold weather, we have talked about winter and what kind of weather to expect. We have made sparkly snowflakes, looked at animals and birds that live in snow and ice. The children made bird feeders with Shannon, which they have hung on the tree in the playground, to feed the birds. They have also made robins by using their hand prints. The children also enjoyed playing with the ice, using hammers to break it up.

Back to the end of November, when we were able to welcome Reverend Natalie into our setting. The children loved having another adult to talk to and play with, and I don't think they wanted her to leave. Thank you so much to Reverend Natalie for visiting us.

On 16th December we had our Christmas Party with lots of party food and games. The children enjoyed playing musical chairs and statues, and



could not get the wrapping off quick enough during pass the parcel. The children sang a few Christmas songs for the parents and then there was a knock at the door as well as the sound of bells. When we opened the door, the children were very excited to find a sack with presents for each of them.

We have extended our hours this term and are now open between 9.15am and 2.45pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and between 9.15am and 1.15pm on Thursdays. Don't forget, Fridays are reserved for our Baby and Toddler Group, which takes place on Fridays between 9.30 and 11.00am during term time!



We are closed week commencing 17th February for the spring half term and are back again on Monday 24th February.

If you would like to know more about the playgroup and Toddler Group or to reserve a place for your child, please contact us on 01453 832695 on weekday mornings or email [aveningplaygroup@gmail.com](mailto:aveningplaygroup@gmail.com)

**Angie Heslop**



Avening Playgroup

## Baby and Toddler Group

**Fridays 9.30 – 11.00 am**

The cost is £3 for an adult and child,  
plus £1 for each additional child/adult over 6 months

For more information phone  
01453 832695 or email  
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## EVERYONE WELCOME!

The sessions are open to parents/carers and  
their pre-school children aged 0-5.

The sessions are run by qualified playgroup staff.  
Children remain the responsibility of their parent/  
carer at all times.

Charity Registration Number: 900618

## The Village Notice Board

The village notice board, on the side of the Memorial Hall, is a good way of publicising village events and items of local information. Posters, ideally size A4 or A5, can be put up for you on this board. They can be delivered to John and Sandra Hetterley, 2, Orchard Field or given to them directly. They will be taken down once they are out of date. Other posters may be removed and recycled once they are faded or to make space for others.

# Avening Community Café

Enjoy good company, crafts, delicious home-made cakes and a drink  
at your Community Café

Every Tuesday morning in the Social Club from 9 – 12 noon

Mobile Post Office on site from 9:30 – 11:30am

Happy New Year to you all!

We had some well attended Café mornings in December including a lively and busy Christmas Wreath making workshop which produced some beautiful wreaths – thanks to Wendy Jennings for organising. We enjoyed mince pies at the Christmas Café and a wee dram to welcome in the New Year. The latest Café rag-rug wall hanging depicting the four seasons is now complete and hanging in the Café, check it out when you call in for coffee.

It is with great sadness that we have to announce the loss of two regular Café members; Jim Hill and Derek Woodman, who will both be fondly remembered and our thoughts are with their families. Some of us were able to visit Jim Hill at Horsfall House during December and he was grateful for the Café card and good wishes.

We are pleased that the Community Café will be open on Saturday 1st February and if this proves successful, we aim to run a Saturday Café on a more frequent basis. Please come along with family and friends and give it a try!

Our AGM will be held on Monday 10th March at 7pm in the Social Club lounge. Why not come along and let us know your ideas and thoughts for future Cafes – welcome drink on arrival.

## February Dates

1st: Saturday Café 10 – 12 noon

4th: Normal Café

11th: Valentines theme

18th: Art with Mark (£3 each, all materials supplied). Also Crafts for Kids.

25th: St Davids Day theme

10th March – Café AGM at 7pm – All welcome.



*The Four Seasons – the latest Avening Community Café rag-rug wall hanging.*

**John Hetterley**

**For Avening Community Café**

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**“We’re planning a summer getaway to Greece and I’m worried we’ll forget something important, which could ruin the holiday. What steps can we take to make sure we’re fully protected and prepared if anything goes wrong?”**

Booking a holiday can be overwhelming, especially if it’s been a while since you last went away. It’s unlikely anything will go wrong, but we’ve prepared a simple checklist to make sure you can relax into your holiday knowing you’re protected from the unexpected.

### **Check your passport is in date - especially for EU travel**

Renewing your passport can take several weeks and isn’t something to leave until the last minute. Check the validity of your passport for your trip on GOV.UK by finding out the entry requirements of the country you’re travelling to.

If you’re heading to Europe, bear in mind EU countries don’t accept passports more than ten years old. This includes passports issued pre-Brexit, which may have longer expiry dates. Just remember, the golden rule for EU travel is: if your passport was issued over ten years ago, you’ll need to get it renewed.

### **Know your rights if something goes wrong**

If your flight’s delayed long enough - usually two to four hours, depending on the journey - your airline must provide access to food and drink vouchers, phone calls and emails, and accommodation if you’re delayed overnight. If it’s cancelled, you’re legally entitled to a full refund or replacement flight to help you get to your destination. You’re also entitled to compensation if your airline delays, loses or damages your checked-in luggage.

### **Get travel insurance**

Although it’s an extra expense, travel insurance can cover many of the things already mentioned, like flight delays and lost luggage, but also things like a holiday cancellation and medical emergencies.

Citizens Advice recommends getting insurance as soon as you book a holiday to make sure you’re covered right away - but always check first to see if an existing insurance policy, or your bank account, covers what you need for your holiday. There’s no need to double up if you’re already covered!

The chances are your holiday will be problem-free, but early planning and preparation can make all the difference. If you need advice on a consumer problem, head to the Citizens Advice website ([www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)).

## Cherington Litter Pick

Cherington Village will be holding its Annual Litter Pick on **Saturday 8 March 2025**. We gather at the Village Green from 9am and equipment will be supplied. Please come along even if you only have a short amount of time to spare as the 'more the merrier' and 'many hands make light work!' It's also an ideal opportunity to meet your neighbours and Parish Councillors and contribute to the upkeep of our beautiful village.



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# Avening WI

Before our December Christmas party meeting got into full swing, our President Jo Harwood presented a cheque for £200 (profit from the autumn AWI Quiz) for the Memorial Hall kitchen refurbishment fund to Patrick Mulligan, Tony Slater and David Bendall, representatives from the Parish Council.



We had a great start to the New Year with a busy session at Avening

Community Café serving lots of bacon rolls and cakes, followed by a brilliant speaker at our first meeting of the year. Kirsten Pobjoy, granddaughter of Shirley Hand, is an amazing young woman who told us all about her career as a Wing Walker – something she never dreamt of when receiving careers advice at Stroud High School! Kirsten is a member of the AeroSuperBatics Company based at an airfield at Cirencester. They are the only Aerobatic Formation Wingwalking team in the world, and have performed at airshows across the

globe. They also run experience days and, following Kirsten's awe inspiring and enthusiastic talk, some members were wondering if they were up to having a go? After all the oldest person who has taken part so far was 95!



What comes to mind when you hear Women's Institute? 'Jam and Jerusalem' is the usual response and yes, we do very occasionally sing Jerusalem and some of us make jam. However, that is far from representative of what happens in Avening WI! We are a group of friends who meet to

socialise, develop and share our experience and skills and learn through activities like walking, reading, crafting, skittles, gardening and theatre going. In addition we have varied and interesting speakers each month and arrange visits to gardens and places further afield. We support our community with our 'Bite to Eat' service, help at the Community Café and fundraise for local charities. In 2024 we raised £500 from donations and the sale of greetings cards for Cobalt; this was doubled through the Big Give initiative to £1,000. The reason I am describing AWI is to encourage any woman who is thinking about joining us to come along to a monthly meeting, where I assure you, you will be made welcome. There is no pressure to join and each member is free to join in as much, or as little, as she



wishes. Our meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month at 7.30 in the Memorial Hall.

Our speaker in February is Richard Jones, whose talk entitled 'The Rise of the Barn' is about the Barn Theatre in Cirencester.

For more information about Avening WI please contact our secretary Helen at [aveningwi@gmail.com](mailto:aveningwi@gmail.com)

We meet on the second Thursday of the month in the Memorial Hall at 7.30pm Visitors and prospective members are always welcome.

For more information contact our secretary Helen at [aveningwi@gmail.com](mailto:aveningwi@gmail.com)

*Bridget Seward*



## **Support Cobalt: Your Local Medical Charity**

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### **Upcoming Events**

- **Walk for Cobalt** – 22nd March 2025: Family-friendly walk through Cheltenham's history.
- **Quenington Open Garden** – 13th April 2025: Rare plants and homemade treats.
- **Snowdon Sunrise Trek** – 16th May 2025: A magical climb for a great cause.

Learn more at [www.cobalthhealth.co.uk](http://www.cobalthhealth.co.uk).

# Who was Joseph Rowland?

When we moved into our 300-year-old house in the High Street 25 years ago, I was stripping off several layers of wallpaper from one of the bedrooms. When I came across a name in flowery handwriting on the bare wall: *Joseph Rowland*. Who was he, I wondered?

A clue was revealed on the adjoining wall, which also contained some writing, mentioning a visit to Cirencester on 12<sup>th</sup> August 1830. A further set of clues appeared when we received the deeds of the house. Some went back to the early 1800s, written in longhand on parchment. From these, the likelihood was that at one stage our house, with the stream at the bottom of the garden, was initially a weaver's cottage. This was not surprising as Avening was heavily involved in the cloth industry in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, with the stream providing power for several cloth mills in the village. Some years later, the property was extended substantially and it operated as *Cotswold Stores*, which accounts for its large windowed frontage. More recently, the house became the local Post Office for several years, next door being a fish and chip shop and then a hairdresser's at some stage.

One of the papers in the pile revealed that on 6<sup>th</sup> March 1824, Joseph Wood from Tetbury provided a mortgage of £130 to two carpenters, John and Thomas Rowland. They had purchased three cottages from John Wheatley, a butcher living in Monmouth, who had inherited the property from his mother, who died intestate in 1797.

The Rowland brothers then converted the cottages into larger dwellings; what happened to the tenants, James Fletcher, Samuel Fletcher and James Ind, is not clear, for the new houses were subsequently occupied by Thomas Rowland, William Parsloe and John Curtis, with two of the houses being converted into one by 1874. These houses were numbered 9 and 10 High Street; our house is number 48, which gives some indication of the amount of building that went on in the village since those days.



As John Rowland was not occupying one of the houses, it was beginning to look as though Joseph Rowland was the son of Thomas. Further evidence emerged from the church graveyard, where there are a number of graves featuring the Rowland name. John Rowland died in 1842 at the age of 57, some 16 years after they bought the houses, and his brother Thomas died in 1859, aged 67.

The 1891 Census has a large Rowland family farming at Avening, and church headstones show that there were Rowlands living in the village until at least 1931, most of them achieving three score years and ten. Apart, that is, from Joseph Rowland, for I found his headstone eventually: he died in 1846 at the age of only 29. If it was Joseph who wrote his name on our bedroom wall, he would probably have been about 13 years old at the time. Whatever, I hadn't the heart to obliterate his signature, and so a little square of bare wall still retains his name.

**Roger Lindley**



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**Feb 1 Very Santana:** An authentic re-creation of music from guitar master Carlos Santana and his band. The evening spans the entire musical legacy from early days to modern era hits like Smooth. Tickets £20 in advance. 7.30pm

**Feb 7 Swing from Paris:** Vintage jazz from this talented quartet re-captures the music of the 1930s and 40s. Tickets in advance £16/under 25s £10. 7.30pm

**Feb 15 Classical Series:** Cellist Tim Posner and pianist Mishka Rushdie Momen play Beethoven, Faure, Liszt and Saint-Saens. Tickets in advance £24/under 25s £15. 7.30pm

**Feb 26 Playtime Theatre:** Join Ratty's band for cheesy tunes and fun theatre for 2-6 year olds from the Last Baguette Company. Tickets in advance adults £5, children over 1 £5, babies free. 10am

**Feb 26 Blue Wales – the Return of the Giants:** a film and talk by Hugh Pearson, producer of Blue Planet. Tickets in advance £8.50. 8pm

**Check our website for further details of films, Wednesday afternoon concerts and Talks and to book tickets, [www.tetburygoodsshed.co.uk](http://www.tetburygoodsshed.co.uk)**



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## Puzzle Answers

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7	3	5	9	8	2	6	1	4
2	1	4	6	3	7	9	8	5
8	4	7	2	1	3	5	9	6
9	5	2	7	6	8	1	4	3
1	6	3	5	4	9	7	2	8
4	2	1	3	7	5	8	6	9
3	7	9	8	2	6	4	5	1
5	8	6	4	9	1	3	7	2

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## Grit Bins

Please be aware that the grit bins in the village are not due to be refilled until autumn.

## Face Masks

See page 10 of this edition

## Roads and Footpaths

Potholes continue to be a problem throughout the County. Although the Parish Council report regularly, the more reports the better. If you see a fault on the footpaths or the roads, please report it on Fix My Street. <https://fixmystreet.gloucestershire.gov.uk>

## Planning Applications & Tree Works Since the Last Issue and Parish Councils Decision December

24/02127/LBC: 25 Point Road - Extension to mezzanine and replacement staircase. New partition wall and fire door. Conservation rooflight to rear roof slope, and alterations to flat roof to accommodate installation of solar panels. No Comment

24/01918/LBC & 24/01917/FUL: 25 Point Road - Rear flat roof raised by 150mm to allow insulation to be provided, and installation of extract fan vent. No Comment

24/03624/FUL: Boat House Gatcombe Water Avening Gloucestershire. Repair, refurbishment, and extension to Boathouse to form a self-build dwelling and the erection of external garage and maintenance hut. No Comment

24/03656/COMPLY: Old Quarries Rectory Lane. Compliance with conditions 21 (Trees) and 26 (Construction Method Statement) of permission 22/03666/FUL - Change of use of existing buildings from residential institution (C2 use) to residential (C3 use) to form a total of 11 no. dwellings, through demolition of modern extensions, internal alterations and extensions, demolition of modern institutional buildings and replacement with new dwellings, associated garaging, landscaping, construction of new wall in alignment of historic walled garden and associated works. Object: The Parish Council are concerned about the impact the heavy-duty construction vehicles will have on Rectory Lane.

24/03651/TPO: 40 Sandford Leaze. T1 Maple (Norway) Remove. Support - Cllr Slater informed the council that the tree does not have a TPO. There is a blanket TPO in Sandford Leaze dating back to when the estate was first built. Only one tree has a TPO remaining. Cllr Slater has enquired how to remove the blanket TPO. It requires all the residents agreeing and permission from the original builder.

## January

24/03783/FUL: 12 Star Lane. Demolition of detached garage. Erection of replacement garage with ancillary accommodation over. - Support

2403746/COMPLY: Church Farm, Point Road. - Compliance with conditions 3 (details - new openings), 4 (method statement - boot room), and 5 (details - oil tank enclosure) of permission 24/02080/FUL and conditions 2 (details - new openings), 3 (details - vents and pipework), 4 (details - oil tank enclosure) and 5 (method statement - boot room) of permission – 24/02081/LBC. Internal and external alterations, erection of single storey extension and associated works. Support

24/03832/FUL: 1 Tetbury Hill Creation of new vehicular access and driveway. Replacement



boundary walling and screening. - Support

24/03921/TCONR: Holy Cross Church. sycamore (T1) - Reduce the western side of the crown from 17m to 12m high and remove the lowest limb to help balance that trunk which is attached to the main tree by a poor union. Hawthorn (T2) - Fell as it is a poor specimen and leaning heavily. Sycamore (T3) - Reduce the crown height from 22m to 18m and the radial spread from 12m to 8m to improve integrity of the crown following a number of recent limb failures. Yew trees (G1) - Reduce the height of the trees from 10m to 4m and reduce the eastern side of the crown behind the railings to allow more light into the school playground and reduce the chance of the poisonous berries landing in the play area. - Support

## **Cotswold District Council Planning Decisions**

### **December**

24/01917/FUL: 8 Sandford Leaze - Conversion of garage to ancillary living accommodation and erection of front porch – Permitted

24/03142/TCONR: 16 Star Lane - Willow (T1): re-pollard back to previous pruning points. No Objection.

24/03131/CONBGP: Land At Grid Reference 388941 197571 Star Lane - Compliance with Biodiversity Gain Plan of permission 24/01818/FUL - Erection of an extension to an agricultural building – Permitted. 24/03130/COMPLY: - Land At Grid Reference 388941 197571 Star Lane - Compliance with condition 4 ( Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) ) of permission 24/01818/FUL - Erection of an extension to an agricultural building. – Permitted.

24/03439/AGFO: Brandhouse Farm West End - Prior notification for the formation of a drainage and conservation pond – Refused.

### **January**

24/02439/TCONR: Bannut Tree New Inn Lane. Yew trees x 5 (G1) - fell to allow repair work to be carried out to the collapsed wall as per structural engineers drawing i.e. bank to be excavated back by 2.5m (including the facing stone) which would mean removing the trees. As the repair work needs to be carried out urgently to reduce the safety hazard of further collapse, the trees need to be felled on 2nd September 2024 – No Objection.

24/02080/FUL: Church Farm Point Road Avening Tetbury Gloucestershire GL8 8ND. Erection of single storey extension and associated works. - Permitted

24/02081/LBC: Church Farm Point Road. Internal and External Alterations, erection of single storey extension and associated works. - Permitted

24/01871/FUL: 18 Sandford Leaze Avening Tetbury Gloucestershire GL8 8PB. Erection of single storey rear extension with balcony and associated stairs above, erection of first floor front extension and side extension and associated enlargement of existing rear dormer window. – Permitted.

### **Neighbourhood Policing Team**

Police Sergeant Garrett Gloyn; PC Chris Pritchard; PCSO Edmund Maina

[101@gloucestershire.police.uk](mailto:101@gloucestershire.police.uk)

*The Agenda and Minutes of the last parish council can be viewed at [www.avening-pc.gov.uk](http://www.avening-pc.gov.uk) The Parish Clerk can be contacted via email at: [parishclerk@avening-pc.gov.uk](mailto:parishclerk@avening-pc.gov.uk)*

# Regular Activities in the Villages

Would organisers please let us know if there are any changes or additions to these events

Event	Day	Time	Where	Contact
Community Café	Tuesday	9.00am - 12.00pm	Social Club	Gill Adams 07826 291759
Mobile Post Office	Tuesday	9.30am - 11.30pm	Social Club car park	
Cherington PC	Tuesday bi-monthly	6.00pm	Cherington Village hall	Babs Malony 07958116794
Line Dancing	Tuesday	8.00 - 9.30 pm	Social Club	Social Club 01453 833760
Avening Youth Club	Every Tuesday in term time	6.30 – 8.00pm	Avening Memorial Hall	01453 756745
Avening Churchyard tidy up	Wednesday	6.00 - 7.00pm	Holy Cross churchyard	Churchwardens
Avening PC	2nd Wednesday each month	7.30pm	Memorial Hall	Shani Baker 07415 039234
Avening Cinema Club	Last Wednesday each month	7.30pm	Memorial Hall	avening Cinemaclub@gmail.com
Avening Church bell ringing	Monday	8.00-9.00pm	Church bell tower	Andrew Lelliott 07726345516
Avening W.I.	2nd Thursday each month	7.30pm	Social Club/ Memorial Hall	Liz 01453 833803
Fledglings for pre-schoolers	Fridays during term time	2.00 - 3.00pm	School Garden	Avening School
Fun Skittles	Last Saturday each month	7.30	Social Club	
Charity Quiz	1st Saturday each month	8.00pm	The Bell	
Avening Singers	Sunday	4.00pm	tba	Derrick Pierce 01453 835090

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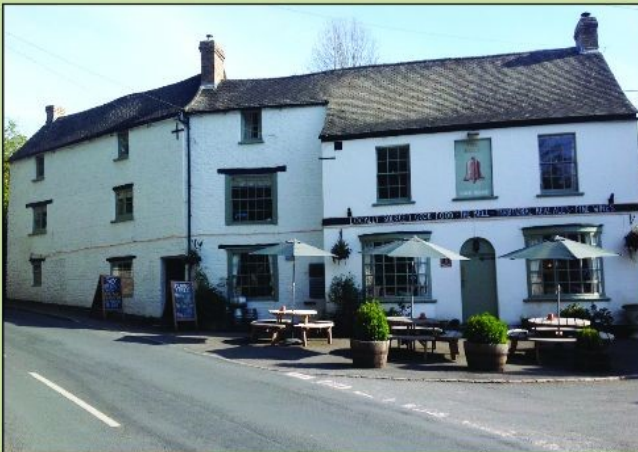


For more information please contact us on **01453 731 227** for an Information Pack or go to: [www.horsfallhouse.co.uk](http://www.horsfallhouse.co.uk)

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