



The Villager

A Magazine for Avening,
Cherington and Nags Head

March 2025

editors@villagemag.online



Richard Murray



Liane Wheeler



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March 2025

Welcome to the March edition of The Villager. We certainly have experienced plenty of rain of late but thankfully signs of spring are around us, with the snowdrops at Cherington Lake in full flower and primroses and daffodils starting to appear. On the subject of the Lake, several people have reported sightings of otters, and it appears that a family of three have taken up residence alongside the ducks, moorhens, herons and cormorants.

As usual there are plenty of regular and one-off village activities taking place during the month, varying from, skittles and quizzes to litter picks! Further afield, a new Cotswold Homes and Interiors Festival takes place in Cirencester on Saturday 29th March, (details on page 14).

We are always looking for new items to include, either as a single article or a regular feature. In this month's issue you can read about squirrel antics in Gilian's poem and also about an unconventional hedgehog. Your contributions will be most welcome, and we would like to introduce a 'Pet Corner' - an opportunity to feature positive and fun stories about your furry friends. Please send us some photos and a line or two about what you love best about your pets. We're looking forward to hearing from you - and maybe from some of our younger readers!

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The Villager Magazine

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Photographs in The Villager Magazine

Many thanks to **Jane Whaley** for the cover photo. Who can tell us where this wintery photo was taken?

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

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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VILLAGE & AREA WEB SITES

Avening Parish Council: www.avening-pc.gov.uk

Cherington Parish Council: cheringtonpc.org.uk.

Cherington Village: www.cheringtonvillage.co.uk

Cotswold District Council: www.cotswold.gov.uk

Facebook: Avening Instagram: #aveningvillage

Gilian's Poem of the Month



I have a bird table up against my window and first to come to it each morning early are the squirrels, who have a definite pecking order! When they have finished I top up the feed and then the birds have their turn.

Squirrels At My Window

I have a little squirrel band who come for food each day,
Varied in colour and temperament, I love to watch them play.
 Skipping through the tree-tops, running up the walls,
 Dancing on the roof-tiles, with no fear of a fall
 Chasing round my garden, flicking their bushy tails,
 Grooming, scratching, feeding, - the action never fails!
First Nutkin, redhead, clever, bold, who leads this happy brood.
 He's always an early riser, and first to come for food.
 And if I'm late with breakfast he leaps up on the sill.
 Beating his paws on the windowpane, until I do his will!
 Next to show is Rusty, his pretty little mate,
Sometimes he lets her share his food, sometimes she has to wait.
 As tawny as her name implies, her face is small and sweet,
With tiny ears and such bright eyes, her movements quick and neat.
 Then up pops cheeky Ringo, an agile acrobat,
 His bushy tail has darker rings, just like a feral cat.
Smallest and youngest of the group he's often chased away,
 But it doesn't faze young Ringo, to him it's just more play!
Now here comes dear old Granny, with bib and apron white,
She's rather plump and ponderous now, but still a stately sight.
 She has the longest whiskers that I have ever seen,
Twitching like radar all the time, her eyes still bright and keen.
When they're all done comes Willow, nervous, shy and grey,
 He's always on the lookout, ready to run away.
 A touch of white beneath his chin, and such a wispy tail
 It looks more like a feather, the hair so thin and pale.
 Then last of all comes Tubby, hugely fat and slow,
Clearing all the food that's left, then on the ground below.
He stuffs his bulging cheeks with food, then looks about for more,
 Although he really doesn't need it, he's the fattest I ever saw!
I sit and watch my squirrel brood - it gives me so much pleasure,
And when the squirrels are all done, the birds flock in at leisure.....

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 8th March	Cherington Litter Pick	Village Green	9 am
Saturday 8th March	Avening Playgroup's Spring Clean	Playgroup	9.30 am- 12.30 pm
Monday 10th March	Community Café AGM	Social Club Lounge	7 pm
Saturday 22nd March	Linocut Printmaking Work- shop (£55 incl. materials)	Cherington Village Hall	2 - 5 pm
Friday 28th March	WI Quiz	Social Club	7 pm for 7.30 pm start
Saturday 29th March	Winter Fun Skittles in aid of Cobalt Cancer Unit	Social Club	7.30 pm
Sunday 30th March	CLOCKS GO FORWARD		1 am
Friday 4th April	FOAS Quiz	Memorial Hall	7 pm
Tuesday 15th April	Avening Litter Pick	Social Club	9.30 am
Sunday 8th June	Art Exhibition	Avening Church	

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 and Cherington



In February, I wrote about the wonderful festival of Candlemas, which shines as a light in the darkness of winter. At the end of our Candlemas service at Cherington, we ended with a short piece of liturgy centred around the lighting of candles, during which we were reminded that “we turn from the crib to the cross.” Candlemas, even with all its joy, is the moment when our attention starts to turn from Jesus’ birth to his death, some years with very little time to adjust to this difficult shift, depending on the date when Easter falls. This year it falls almost as late in the year as is possible, meaning that Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on the 5th of March.

Though our attention is now on the cross, it doesn’t mean that the light of Christmas and Candlemas has gone out – in fact, it’s more important now than ever. In the piece of liturgy that I mentioned, we responded to “We turn from the crib to the cross.” with the words “Let us shine with the light of your love.” as a reminder to carry that light with us into the next phase of the church’s year. Yes, in Lent our attention is on the cross and the events that led Jesus to it, and our focus on self-examination and penitence (saying sorry to God) but that doesn’t mean we have to turn our backs on the light and love we celebrated just a few weeks ago. Roman Catholic and some Anglican churches keep the third Sunday of Lent as Laetare Sunday, from the Latin ‘Laetare Jerusalem’ meaning ‘rejoice, O Jerusalem’. It’s a reminder that joy can be found anywhere, even in the midst of despair.

Whether or not you keep Lent, I hope you’ll seek out a moment of joy in whatever challenges you’re facing. Whether it’s taking a moment to laugh with colleagues, admiring a bird through the window, or finding time to indulge in a hobby, even a brief respite from the darkness is good for our souls. As a wise man once said, “Happiness can be found, even in the darkest of times, if one only remembers to turn on the light.” (Albus Dumbledore) As we journey through Lent, let’s seek out the light, wherever it’s found.

Natalie

Lent Meetings

Everyone is welcome to join in the Lent Meetings being held in the next 6 weeks, mostly on Monday evenings (except for March 11th, a Tuesday). Do feel free to come to any or all of these special occasions. We will alternate between Cas’ in Nags Head or Elizabeth on Avening High Street.

The evenings begin with a simple supper and a glass of wine as we explore a booklet entitled ‘Turned by Divine Love,’ by John Stroyan, Bishop of Warwick. It will be an opportunity to think outside the box and refresh our spiritual life.

We will supply the booklets, and it would be a help if you let us know you are coming so we can prepare enough food. Please reply to Elizabeth (buchanan.el@gmail.com) or text her on 07779799945.

Church Services

	AVENING	CHERINGTON
2 nd March 10.00am	Morning Prayer	HOLY COMMUNION
9 th March 10.00am	HOLY COMMUNION	NO SERVICE
16 th March 10.00am	Morning Prayer	HOLY COMMUNION
23 rd March 10.00am	HOLY COMMUNION	NO SERVICE
30 th March 10.00am	HOLY COMMUNION Mothering Sunday	HOLY COMMUNION Mothering Sunday
7 th April 10.00am.	Morning Prayer	HOLY COMMUNION

 * **PLEASE JOIN US IN EITHER CHURCH FOR OUR SPECIAL MOTHER'S DAY SERVICES** *



Church Floodlighting

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.



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

Letter from Chairman of Avening Parish Council



With the new year now underway it is pleasing to start with some good news.

New Parish Councillor: The vacancy on the Parish Council has been filled by Deborah Blackie who is a resident of Avening. Deborah grew up in Warwickshire and Gloucestershire and went to school in Chipping Campden and Lechlade. On what she describes as ‘a whim’ in her early years she went to Australia, living there for seven years; some of which were spent working on huge, outback cattle stations. Finally, after more meanderings around the globe, she returned to work in London for a while. Deborah then moved back to Gloucestershire to live nearer to her many friends. Initially working for St Jame’s Place in Cirencester and subsequently for Zurich Financial Services in Cheltenham and Swindon until ‘lock-down’ in 2020. Following lockdown, Deborah wanted to do something more ‘useful’ locally, so she worked in a ‘zero-hours’ contract at the Phoenix Surgery in Tetbury and then at Tetbury Hospital, before then moving from Tarlton to Avening in 2023, where she hopes to stay for many years to come. We look forward to the contributions that Deborah, with her broad experience, can bring to our Parish Council and will support her in her new role. Deborah’s contact details will be added to the Parish website in due course.

Avening Playgroup: Following on from his attendance at our Parish Council meeting, Cllr Stephan Fifield, as Deputy Leader of Gloucestershire County Council, has expressed his delight in being able to support Avening Playgroup’s application for £2,500 to help fund their Playground of Possibilities project. This fantastic initiative will refresh and improve their facilities, ensuring local children have the best start in life. The funding comes from the GCC Build Back Better fund that was set up after the pandemic to help local communities get the funding they need to put on events and support local people. We hope that it will make a big difference.

Telephone Box: Everyone will no doubt be aware that the phone box on the High Street is in dire need of refurbishment, a need made even more urgent by the door being blown off during a recent storm, but complicated by the fact that it is a listed structure. Because it is listed, the Parish Council have a legal duty to conserve and preserve the structure; as such we have put aside monies in our budget to cover the necessary work. You may be aware that the Parish Council have received a proposal, which we have agreed to, to convert the phone box into a community library. We have obtained a couple of bids to perform the necessary remedial work and the modifications to convert it into a library. (subject to any planning permission if needed!)

Two Reminders: -

Free Face Masks: For any villager who feels they need them - available to collect from the Tuesday Café, or alternatively 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 current grit bins will not be replenished during this winter or spring (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.

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

Patrick Mulligan 07713068436

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Puzzle Corner

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

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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 364

Advance Notice of the National and International World Famous Annual Avening Art Exhibition on Sunday 8th June 2025 in Avening Church!

This year there will be a stunning exhibition of paintings, drawings and craft work in the Church. There will also be a display of extraordinarily beautiful and fascinating photographs taken by those in our community, and thanks to very generous sponsorship there will be Prizes!

The Theme for the Photographic Competition is
'Avening, Nag's Head and Cherington People, Places and Pets'

Prizes and Rules for admission:

There will be 3 x £50 prizes for the three Adult Winners (over 12 years old), and 3 x £25 prizes for the three winners under 12 year old! Photographs to be printed on 8"x 6" paper, with a maximum of three entries per person.

Also, teas and a plant stall!

More information on this and other features of the Great Exhibition will be published in the Villager next month.

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Avening's Unconventional Hedgehog

Towards the end of November our regular visitor ceased to arrive at our back door for his daily meal. I assumed that the time for sleep through the winter had started. During 2024 I had made a feeding centre to protect the food from the weather. with an inspection window whereby I was able to check if he was in residence before I lifted the wooded cover to apply his favourite biscuits and special meat that can be obtained from the local garden centre. I was very surprised on the 10th January when Hedgy arrived at the back door looking for his regular meal, bearing in mind that at that time we were experiencing very cold weather. Hedgy sat very still as I placed some food in front of him.



The following day he arrived at 2 pm, the start of a daily visit that became earlier with every day - and now I have to prepare his breakfast before I do mine at 7.30am. If that wasn't enough to eat he sets about the birds food, much to their displeasure.

Ron Major

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 Gloucestershire
COUNTY COUNCIL



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.

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

Many thanks to all those who supported our Saturday Café on 1st February; we hope to hold another one shortly.

Our themed Cafés over the last month included the Chinese New Year with fortune cookies, and Valentines Day with heart-shaped decorations, cakes and scones. We were pleased to welcome Mark back from his holiday and many enjoyed his latest art session of a pen and ink picture of Stroud canal. These twice monthly sessions continue to be very popular.

Our AGM will be held on Monday 10 March at 7pm in the Social Club lounge. Why not come along and give us your ideas for future Cafés. Welcome drink on arrival.

The Café has been asked to help the RNIB by collecting used postage stamps – please bring any to the Café and place in the collecting box on the counter (stamps should be trimmed with approximately 1cm of paper around the edge). Please also note that we shall be undertaking our twice yearly “litter pick” on April 15, followed by bacon butties.

With increasing numbers of flu and COVID cases nationally, the Parish Council has asked the Café to act as a distribution point for free disposable face masks. These are now available for any who require them.

March Dates

- 4th Shrove Tuesday with pancakes! Art with Mark (£3 each, all materials supplied).
- 10th Monday AGM at 7pm in Social Club Lounge
- 11th Gold Cup Sweepstake
- 18th St Patricks Day theme. Art with Mark (£3 each, all materials supplied).
- 25th Normal Café

John Hetterley
For Avening Community Café

A Bite to Eat?

Arranging a Group Lunch, Afternoon Tea, Christening Party or other social event ?



Avening WI ‘Bite to Eat’ scheme may be able to assist with your catering needs.

We can provide and serve a selection of freshly prepared sandwiches, scones and cakes; a fork or finger buffet; or a two course meal.

For prices and any further details :

Please telephone Liz on **01453 833803** or e-mail **lizknowles@hotmail.co.uk**

Avening Silver Band

The Avening Silver Band was founded in 1927 by a small group of villagers, of which only two were able to read music; the others could play by ear. To increase the numbers they put a plea to others in the villager that they had a few instruments available and needed more volunteers, which duly happened and the band was formed.



As you know we unfortunately lost our main man Jim Hill at the end of last year, we are now looking at moving forward and reaching 2027 to celebrate hundred years and beyond. This is where we need your assistance, as from the statement above on how the band was formed, we are putting out the same plea as they did. We are down to approximately 10 players which only form the minimum number of players to do engagements; we rely on friends from other bands to help us.

Therefore our challenge to you is whether young, old or in-between, any gender or if learning an instrument is on your bucket list or if you have played before and would like to give it another go, please either come along to the Memorial Hall on a Monday evening from 7:00pm or e-mail aveningsilverband@gmail.com for details.

I can assure you that we are a friendly group of musicians, we have the following instruments available; cornets, tenor horns, baritones, euphoniums, trombones and basses. We will give free tuition to get you started. I already attend Avening School once a week to get children interested.

Hopefully you will hear our appeal and may be able to help us out.

John Hall, new Bandmaster

Letter to the Editors

Dear Sir/Madam

Unfortunately, we have found dog mess outside the front of our house in Nags Head lane on several occasions.

Can you please put another reminder note in the Avening newsletter to tell people that not only is it highly unpleasant but it is also illegal to allow their dogs to foul. There is a dog bin by the telephone box so there is no excuse! We are dog lovers and enjoy seeing people walking their dogs here. It's such a shame that a few people give dog walkers a bad name.

Thank you

Residents of Nags Head

Derick Woodman Remembered

Derick was born on 5th June 1947 in the Tetbury Hospital to Stanley and Elsie, a younger brother to his sister Mary, who has predeceased Derick. Their father Stanley sadly died when Derick was only nine. The Woodman family lived at Didmarton where Derick went to the local primary school before attending Tetbury's Sir William Romney School, at that time located in Long Street.

At age sixteen, Derick joined the engineering workforce as a machinist at Newman Hender, before working for other engineering companies and in hotel maintenance, and in cloth manufacture at Longfords Mill. He was awarded long-service recognition from both engineering companies, Newmans and Millipore. Engineering was in Derick's blood, and he loved activities that involved trains, cars, motorbikes, or aeroplanes.



From the age of six, he had been a trainspotter and he had a lifelong fascination with steam trains. Derick was delighted to participate in his 70th birthday present from family of 'The Footplate Experience' both as a fireman stoking the boiler and as the train driver.



Derick was also a regular visitor at the Kemble Airfield where he took delight in seeing Spitfires (his daughter Katie phoning him to alert him to the presence of any Spitfire so he could rush up to see it). One special outing was with his son Simon, when Derick's nephew Ray, who was serving at RAF Lyneham, managed to get them on a Hercules flight – itself a real highlight and made even more memorable by them standing in the open back tail as it landed!

Derick was also a frequent attendee at the Castle Combe circuit to watch the super bikes, and on one occasion he travelled over to the Isle of Man to witness the famous TT races. In fact, in his younger days, when Derick was a Rocker involved in the Mods and Rockers rivalry of the 1960s, Derick purchased direct from the factory a BSA Rocket Goldstar with a powerful 663cc engine, the fastest production bike at that time. He told Simon that on one occasion he was pulled over by a policeman and cautioned about his speed, the policeman adding, 'You should have kept going as there would have been no way I could have caught up with you.'

It is important to understand Derick's passion for these things before relating how his life changed - but not these passions - in 1977. Although living at Didmarton, Derick had a friend who lived in Avening and that summer he and his friend visited the Avening Social Club for a game of skittles, and there Derick met a young lass called Julie Fletcher and asked her out on a date. Was Derick planning a romantic dinner? Or a quiet drink and chat in some quaint Cotswold pub? Or going to the cinema to sit side by side in the dark holding hands? No, what Derick had in mind on that evening of Friday 19 August 1977 was enjoying the roar and the smell of the Robins speedway at Swindon's Abbey Stadium. Yet, somehow

Derick won Julie's heart and on Saturday 25th March 1978, they became engaged, and a wedding was planned – but not until the young couple had a home of their own, something Julie's parents, Aubrey and Maureen, were keen to see. The shell of a bungalow was built just off Mill Lane in Avening, and Julie's brother, Andrew, with help from Julie's parents – and Derick after work - set about completing the house, to be called Cherwood, for Julie and Derick to move in after their wedding. This happened following their wedding in Avening's Holy Cross Church on Saturday 19 September 1981 and honeymoon at Weston Super Mare, and Cherwood has been the family home ever since.

Derick loved a holiday at the seaside, and Paignton in Devon became the annual family holiday destination. Before the children came along Julie and Derick would stay at Romford Lodge on Marine Drive facing the sea. Derick was always to say 'If I haven't been in the sea it isn't a holiday' and in those child-free years, he would happily go skinny-dipping for a night-time swim. Then, with Katie and Simon, it was still a Paignton family holiday. There was always excitement as they drove down the slipway off the A380 to Derick's cry of 'Here we go then!' With the challenge to the children, 'Who can see the sea first?' And every holiday – just to wind Katie up – when they crossed the so-called Riviera railway line – Derick would pretend that his foot was stuck and that he couldn't move if the train was coming. Derick liked his holiday traditions – and breakfast was always at Woolworths – at 7 o'clock - no long lie-ins – before they set off exploring.

Derick was very much a family man, and although not overtly loving in a touchy-feely way, his love for Julie and his family was deep and true. As a father he would certainly let the children know if they were not doing the right thing, but he was also supportive. Both Katie and Simon agree that he was an amazing Dad – he'd do anything for them. And of course he'd do anything for Julie too. Yes, he could be stubborn and could get cross if challenged, or in recent years he was frustrated when he couldn't do things, but he would always follow up any show of annoyance with, 'you know I love you' and he would often say to Julie, 'What would I do without you?' or 'Julie, I wouldn't be able to live without you.'

And Derick loved being a grandfather and Oliver, Freddie, and Tyler all loved their Bampy. He was a great help to Katie by picking Oliver up from school and was an enthusiastic supporter when he watched Oliver play cricket or football; the Saturday after Oliver lost his Bampy, Oliver scored two goals and celebrated by kissing his finger and pointing to the heavens. Derick had also enjoyed picking up Freddie from nursery and taking Tyler to playgroup, Tyler delighted to say 'go in Bampy's car' - after Derick had read Tyler's favourite Happy Caterpillar book and Tyler had drawn an aeroplane for Bampy. Yes, they all adored their Bampy.

In his bachelor days, Derick was keen on live music and used to ride every Monday to Bath Pavilion, seeing future stars and bands like Eric Clapton, Cream, Bryan Ferry, Roxy Music, Fleetwood Mac, and Gary Moore, the Thin Lizzy guitarist; and he saw The Beatles at the Sub-Rooms in Stroud. Some thought he was a star lookalike, saying he could be Bryan Ferry, John Travolta as Danny in Grease, and even Elvis Presley! Thankfully, maturity and/or marriage settled him down! Although he did enjoy a night out, now with Julie as his partner - dances with family and friends, like Sandra and Geoff Trinder at the Avening Social Club and The Cross (never to be called Queen Matilda!). Derick's sense of fun came out on their holidays with friends, Ness and Ed, to Scotland and abroad. Derick and Ed

'were lost' visiting Glamis Castle – but were hiding in the flower beds to jump out and surprise their wives; and on another Lochs and Glens tour of Scotland, a couple staying in a near-by Highland hotel, and seeing Derick and Ed wearing Scottish 'Tammies' and having a laugh, said they wished they 'could join you lot!'. Then on a bus tour of Barbados, the pair had so many laughs together that the tour guide said that they could not get back on the bus - and were to walk in front of the coach to the next stop! However, in truth not a long way off, so an easy 'punishment' for the 'naughty boys'! That Barbados escapade took place on a cruise of the Caribbean, and Derick and Julie enjoyed many holidays together in many countries across Europe, including those visited while cruising the Mediterranean or to Cape Verde, with memorable visits to Croatia, Montenegro, and Slovenia to name a few, but Derick wasn't keen on Venice – 'too crowded!' he said!

For, indeed, despite his love of a laugh, Derick was essentially a private person. He didn't really like people knowing his business. (So, apologies, Chopper, for divulging so much today!) On the other hand, Derick readily responded to Julie when she asked him to go up to The Cross when she received a phone call from Sandra across the valley asking if Derick could go and find out what was going on when she spotted from a distance something happening there. But mainly, Derick preferred the quiet life, looking after the pots of flowers in his garden and taking a cutting from a shrub and growing it in his greenhouse - and later helping his gardener son, Simon, until in the last 3 years he became frustrated that he could no longer help.

For much of his life and certainly in his younger days, in addition to playing skittles in both regular and summer leagues in several teams, including The Bandits, Derick played at The ASC and The Cross in Avening, at the Minchinhampton Club and in the Tetbury League – and part of his inheritance is that he made it something of a family tradition with Julie, Katie, and Simon all involved. He also remained a supporter of the Swindon Robins, getting Katie and Simon into it as well, until it ended in 2022.

Derick liked watching sport on TV – although he could rarely stay in the room if his football team, Man U, was on, as he got too excited; but he also enjoyed watching Gloucester's Cherry Whites play rugby, and of course he would watch the World and UK Superbike championships, the Moto GPs and touring car races. And his interest in motor sports extended beyond his living room. Derick would announce to Julie that he was 'just going out for a trip in the car' but would somehow end up at a motocross event – and once there he never kept his phone on – he was incommunicado – and so well-known at many events that he would be given free entry, especially when invited to be a marshal. Sometimes, Julie would accompany Derick on a trip out – and then spend the afternoon sitting in the car while Derick watched his beloved sport.

At home, Derick ruled the TV controls – even young Tyler knew to say, 'give Bampy the controls.' Derick would ask for silence in the living room each day for the 6 o'clock news, both local and national; and Derick had a number of favourite programmes – Last of the Summer Wine, Only Fools and Horses, Open All Hours, and Death in Paradise. More recently, he enjoyed the former bike racer, Guy Martin, presenting documentaries, especially How Britain Worked, exploring the history and engineering of Britain through various topics, such as trains, mills, seaside, mines, trawlers and gardens.

Perhaps his favourite TV show was Heartbeat and recently he and Julie sat and watched all

372 episodes replayed on Gold Channel. So, it was a special treat when one day in Cirencester at Lidl, Derick and Julie met and chatted with the actor Rupert Vansittart who played Lord Ashfordly in the series. That wasn't the only time Derick got close to a TV series production. There was the day, he drove up to Chavenage to watch the shooting of Poldark, when suddenly there was a shout of 'Stop filming there's a silver car in shot!'



While Derick may not have had his moment of glory in a TV series at Star Farm that day, he was in his own way a 'star' to his family and friends. He is greatly missed by Julie, Katie, Simon, and all the family, by Mel his 'surrogate' daughter, and by all to whom he was a neighbour and friend. It was good that the whole family were together at Katie's for Christmas. It is also good, that although not planned as such, Derick's care for his family extends beyond his death as he had booked a family holiday for them to be together during this year's Easter break, and that will be a healing time for them – and for all he has been to and for them, we join with family in saying Thank You Derick and in wishing him a fond farewell.

The above tribute was read at Derick's funeral. Thank you to Katie for providing the photos.

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Avening Playgroup

Over the past few weeks, the children have been very busy with:

Numerals, counting beyond 10 and using positional language: The children have been matching quantity to numerals, describing where Elmer is, colouring and tracing numerals, playing number games and completing puzzles.

The Chinese New Year of the Snake: The children made fans, dragons, playdough snakes, used chopsticks and looked at books about the Chinese New Years.

Colours: We had fun mixing paints, sorting/matching colours and painting rainbows.

Valentine's Day: The children made Valentine's cards, made potions in the tuff tray, decorated heart collages and used wool to thread around hearts.

Croc 'n' Roll: The committee managed to secure some music and dance sessions with Steph. The children have loved joining in, playing instruments and popping bubbles.

Please note our **new** opening hours:

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday: 9.15 – 2.45

Thursday: 9.15 – 1.15

Friday: Toddler Group from 9.30 – 11.00



Our Toddler Group on Fridays has not been very busy and we realise that there are many other groups running at the same time. If the Toddler Group does not get any busier, we will have to rethink what we do on a Friday morning – all suggestions are welcome! Our current thinking is to start a 2-year-old only session between 9.15 and 12.15 every Fridays during term time. If this is something that you would be interested in, please email the playgroup to let us know.

From a funding point of view, we accept the universal 15 hours entitlement for 3- and 4-year-olds as well as the additional 15 hours entitlement for eligible working parents of 3- and 4-year-olds and of 2-year-olds. To see if you are eligible for the working parents funding, please visit www.childcarechoices.gov.uk. Avening Playgroup also accepts funding for non-working parents of 2-year-olds, please visit www.gcca2yofunding.com to see if you are eligible to claim this.

On March 8th we have our Playgroup Spring Clean which will involve weeding, strimming, pressure washing, sweeping, painting and cleaning. If you are able to help, please come along between 9.30 and 12.30, and bring any useful equipment with you. Refreshments will be provided.

Our next fundraiser will be our Easter Egg Hunt. Please keep your eyes open for more information.

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

Angie Heslop



Calling all Parents, Grandparents,
Neighbours & Friends! Please join us for

AVENING PLAYGROUPS SPRING CLEAN

Are you able to spend some time with us to help tidy up our garden?!

**Join us on Saturday 8th March, anytime between
9:30am-12:30pm**

Jobs will include weeding, strimming, pressure washing, fence painting & sweeping.
Please bring along any tools you think may be helpful!

Tea, coffee & cake provided.

Unfortunately, we are not able to have any children on site during the morning for their own safety.

If you can't help on the day but want to support our lovely charity setting, we welcome any donations via our Just Giving Page. Scan to donate!



Avening Playgroup,
The Sunground,
Avening
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Charity number 900618



Friends of Avening School

Friends of Avening School (FOAS) are a school PTA (Parent Teacher Association) bringing together parents, teachers and children to raise funds and strengthen the school community. We are a charity whose objectives centre around **Fundraising and Community**.

FOAS is the difference between Avening pupils having access to a feast of resources that enrich their learning, such as contemporary technologies; or facing limitations.

Avening School is particularly proud to offer all students, regardless of circumstances, year-round participation in every school trip experience. Without regular contributions from FOAS, sustaining this pledge would be a challenge.

In addition to fundraising, FOAS arrange events such as seasonal fetes and school discos, to bring the community together and add an extra layer of enjoyment to village school life.

Thank you so much to everyone who took part FOAS events last term. From the Christmas Fayre and Wreath Making Workshop to Halloween Disco and Raffle, we raised £5,700 for Avening School, which is just fantastic.

This much needed funding supports projects such as improving outdoor learning spaces, books, classroom technology and school trip coaches.

After a quiet start to this year, we're keen to keep the momentum going and smash our fundraising goals for 2025 - and we'd love for you to be a part of it.

2025 SPRING EVENTS

BEDTIME STORIES

Wednesday 5th March, 6pm to 7pm

Children return to school in their pyjamas for bedtime stories, hot chocolate and biscuits. Older children read to younger pupils in their classrooms.

BREAK THE RULES DAY

Friday 4th April

Enjoy a whole school day full of broken rules! Pay 50p per rule you'd like to break such as wearing nail varnish or eating dessert first!

QUIZ NIGHT (Adults Only)

Friday 4th April - Avening Memorial Hall

Join us for a friendly, fun and entertaining night, hosted by Jo Harris. Fab prizes on offer, including £100 cash for the winning team! Raffle, hot food and bar available.

Book quiz tickets and pre-order food on our website www.foas.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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Alison Hodges, BSC(Hons) MSc PGCE

Letter to the Editors

A humanitarian plea from the churches of Jerusalem: defending the dignity and presence of the people of Gaza

As custodians of the Christian faith and conscience in this sacred land, we raise our voices in sorrow and steadfast resolve in the face of the ongoing suffering in Gaza. The devastation that has unfolded before the eyes of the world is a profound moral and humanitarian tragedy. Thousands of innocent lives have been lost, and entire communities stand in ruin, with the most vulnerable—children, the elderly, and the sick—enduring unimaginable hardship.

Amid this anguish, we are compelled to speak against the grave threat of mass displacement, an injustice that strikes at the very heart of human dignity. The people of Gaza, families who have lived for generations in the land of their ancestors, must not be forced into exile, stripped of whatever is left of their homes, their heritage, and their right to remain in the land that forms the essence of their identity. As Christians, we cannot be indifferent to such suffering, for the Gospel commands us to uphold the dignity of every human being. The words of our Lord remind us: “Woe to those who make unjust laws, to those who issue oppressive decrees, to deprive the poor of their rights and withhold justice from the oppressed” (Isaiah 10:1-2).

In this critical moment, we acknowledge and support the position of His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan, President El-Sisi of Egypt, and others, whose firm and principled stance have remained clear and unwavering in rejecting any attempt to uproot the people of Gaza from their land. Their relentless efforts to provide humanitarian aid, appeal to the world’s conscience, and insist on the protection of civilians exemplify leadership at its highest level of responsibility.

In this same spirit, we also call for the release of all captives from both sides so that they can be safely reunited with their families. We additionally appeal to all people of faith, to governments, and to the international community to act swiftly and decisively to halt this catastrophe. Let there be no justification for the uprooting of a people who have already suffered beyond measure. Let the sanctity of human life and the moral obligation to protect the defenseless outweigh the forces of destruction and despair. We call for an immediate unfettered humanitarian access to those in desperate need. To abandon them now would be to abandon our shared humanity.

As we lift our prayers for those in mourning, for the wounded, and for those who remain steadfast in the land of their forefathers, we remember the promise of Scripture: “The Lord upholds all who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down” (Psalm 145:14). May the God of mercy strengthen the afflicted, soften the hearts of those who hold power, and bring forth a peace that upholds justice, preserves human dignity, and safeguards the presence of all people in the land to which they belong.

— The Patriarchs and Heads of the Churches in Jerusalem

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Avening WI

In February a team of AWI members were delighted to provide and serve tea and cakes for a reception in the Social Club, following the official opening of the new houses in Sunground by HRH Princess Anne. The team was very pleased to be presented to HRH and she told them that the bunting we made for her a few years ago is still up in her Events Barn. (photo courtesy of Matt Pereiro Photography)



Our February walk was along the Tetbury Trail on a lovely, dry morning. On the return journey some members tackled the muddy, steep slope up through Preston Park, enjoying the view over the fields and meandering stream. We all met at the Royal Oak for an excellent lunch. Our March walk will be following an Arts and Crafts Movement Trail around Minchinhampton, followed by lunch.

Just over a year ago we started a Theatre Group that has proved popular, so we were very glad to welcome Richard Jones from The Barn Theatre as our February speaker. He outlined the history of The Barn, starting with the purchase of the site in 2007 by Chrissie and Ian Carling. They had a grand vision to convert the site into a professional theatre, with adjacent hotel and restaurant. The Barn opened its first professional production to much critical acclaim in March 2018. Since then it has gone from strength to strength and is now an award winning, producing house theatre. We are looking forward to seeing their production of 'A Role to Die For', billed as 'a rip roaring, wickedly funny comedy'.

We are planning to start a gardening group shortly. We are fortunate that one of our members has a Diploma in Garden Design and lots of local contacts in the gardening world. We plan to share our experience and love of gardening; have plant and seed swaps; look at one another's gardens; and visit nurseries and gardens in the area.

Our Skittles team had a friendly match against Nailsworth WI and although they lost quite heavily they had an enjoyable, sociable evening.

We shall be taking our turn to run the Community Café with our popular bacon butties and cakes.

Our group walking The Cotswold Way will be setting off in early March to complete stage 14 (of 16 stages) from Horton to Tormarton. The end is in sight.....well almost!!

We have a Mosaic Workshop planned for March and our Book Group will be meeting to discuss 'The Botanist's Daughter' by Kayte Nunn.

Our speaker at the March monthly meeting will be Rhiannon Parker on 'Fraud Awareness and Advice', something on which we all need to be up to speed. Our meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall. Visitors and prospective members are always welcome.

Save the date: Our popular Village Quiz will be held on Friday 28th March in the Social Club. Please come along for an enjoyable eveningas well as Shirley's interesting questions, there is a bar, light ploughman's supper and raffle. The profits from our quizzes are always donated to a local charity or good cause.

For more information about Avening WI please contact our secretary Helen at aveningwi@gmail.com

Bridget Seward

AVENINGCINEMA CLUB



The next film will be on WEDNESDAY 26 March
Doors open 7pm. Film starts 7.30pm. Interval halfway
Please feel free to bring refreshments
AVENING MEMORIAL HALL

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The film club runs on the last Wednesday of every month.
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- March 1** **Comedy Club:** Spring-Time Comedy Goodness features stand-up comedian James Cook, Bristolian Dani Johns and Jack Campbell for an evening of mirth and merriment. Tickets in advance £13.50. 8pm
- March 8** **The Importance of Being Earnest:** The first of our partnerships with the National Theatre brings a specially filmed production of Oscar Wilde's classic play. Tickets in advance £15. 7.30pm
- March 16** **Charlie Hooper-Williams:** The pianist weaves together music and visuals with the help of Otto, his computer co-performer, to produce stunning visuals which mirror the music. Tickets in advance £13. 6pm
- March 26** **Playtime Theatre:** The Last Baguette Company brings your 2–6-year-olds cheesy tunes from Ratty's band to sing along to in a fun theatre session. Tickets in advance parents £5, children £5 (babies free). 10am
- March 29** **Coco Tomita & Simon Callaghan:** Celebrated Japanese violinist Coco joins with pianist Simon in an evening of Debussy, Prokofiev and Beethoven. Tickets in advance £24. 7.30pm

Check our website for further details of films, Wednesday afternoon concerts and Talks and to book tickets: www.tetburygoodshed.co.uk

William the Conqueror's Blog

In 1027, young Count Robert of Hiesmois was out riding when the sight of a pretty girl tanning hides by a river was too much for him. Sweeping up Arlette onto his horse, he galloped back to Falaise castle. William the Conqueror was conceived...

Roger Lindley

I know, you thought I had died a thousand years ago. Well once you've been branded the world's first war criminal your penitence can go on and on indefinitely. So I want to put the record straight about my dear old wife Queen .

The first thing you need to appreciate is that being married to me was never easy. If you had an upbringing like mine, mocked as William the Bastard, the illegitimate son of Robert, Duke of Normandy, you would perhaps understand why I could occasionally get bad-tempered. So not only did Matilda have to put up with my foul moods when I was home, I was so busy conquering that I was rarely there. Had I realised how difficult it was to retain the lands I conquered I wouldn't have extended my horizons quite so far: I had to have fifty castles built to defend them, and find the troops to garrison them. I even had to lay waste to the North of England to stop those Yorkshire Earls and the Danes ganging up on me. Many thousands starved, not my finest hour.

If Matilda had just been sitting at home looking after our ten children it would have been hard enough, but she was both Queen of England and Duchess of Normandy, and made all the day-to-day decisions while I was away. And England was in a shocking state when we arrived in 1066, with an obsolete army and heavily in debt. Sounds familiar? Normandy far better so we brought over many barons to improve agriculture so we could raise taxes. Once we got the Domesday Book up and running we could start to fill the country's coffers.

All right, Matilda did give that chap Brictric a hard time, but she was a stunner as a young lady and if he rejected her advances when he was ambassador to Flanders more fool him, these things can catch up with you. But we would have taken his lands from him anyway, it was just a shame that Matilda forgot about him rotting in a dungeon. However, if this little mishap hadn't occurred, you wouldn't have had your church would you?

I would also like to get straight this Pig Face business. It's a stupid name for your biannual celebration, but after a thousand years you'll be hard pressed to change it. No, Matilda did not have a face like a pig, and she wasn't only four feet tall, there's no way we would have had ten children if she looked like that! No, she was a tall, attractive lady, and there are statues of her in Caen in France to prove it.

It wasn't an easy start for Matilda in marriage either. She refused me at first, because as she was from the House of Flanders she was more high-born than me; although maybe she was just upset because I had sent a messenger to ask for her hand. The story that I rode over to Flanders in a rage, dragged her from her horse by her hair, and rolled her in the mud is not entirely accurate, but she did agree to marry me. And no sooner than we were on honeymoon than the Pope decreed that the marriage should be annulled as we were third cousins once removed! What nonsense, fortunately he died shortly afterwards and the next Pope said it would be all right as long as we built two churches as a penance.

So let's not hear any more fake news about Matilda, she was a conscientious Queen who did great things for England, and she did you villagers a good turn too.

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

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Dog Fouling: Dog fouling in the Village has become a serious problem especially at the playing field. The Parish Council are investigating the possibility of installing CCTV cameras.

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 <https://fixmystreet.gloucestershire.gov.uk>

Planning Applications & Tree Works since the last Issue and Parish Council's Decisions

New Planning Applications

25/00018/LBC: 31 Nags Head Lane. Carry out essential maintenance to the property by repointing the front exterior wall to the right-hand side only. This will preserve the fabric of the building and prevent water ingress. The work will involve removing all the old cement and flaking lime mortar down to the bed joint and repointing with lime mortar, locally sourced sharp washed sand, and stone grit throughout - Support

25/00063/FUL: 21 West End. Erection of two-storey side extension, re cladding of dwelling and landscaping - Support

25/00107/TCONR: Farm Hill House Point Road. T1- Thuja hedge to be removed to ground level. Re plant of either new hedge row/ specimen trees (Yet To be decided) Two trees have died off. BT Cable and power line growing within canopy - Support.

Cotswold District Council Planning Decisions

24/01918/LBC25: Point Road. Rear flat roof raised by 150mm to allow insulation to be provided, and installation of extract fan vent – Permitted

24/02127/LBC25: 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 – Permitted

24/03651/TPO: 40 Sandford Leaze. T1 Maple (Norway) Remove - Subsidence claim - Permitted

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 – Permitted

Cllr King said that work on the Quarries has started, and they have taken the concerns of the Parish into account. All traffic will be escorted, and pedestrians will have right of way.

Neighbourhood Policing Team, Police Seargent Garrett Gloyne; PC Chris Pritchard; PCSO Edmund Maina 101@gloucestershire.police.uk

The Agenda and Minutes of the last parish council can be viewed at www.avening-pc.gov.uk The Parish Clerk can be contacted via email at: parishclerk@avening-pc.gov.uk



The
GEORGE
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Appointments- scan here

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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
Avening Silver Band	Monday	7.00-9.00pm	Memorial Hall	aveningsilverband@gmail.com
Community Café	Tuesday	9.00am - noon	Social Club	Gill Adams 07826 291759
Mobile Post Office	Tuesday	9.30-11.30am	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	
KNEAD Mobile Bakery	Last Saturday each month	9.45 - 10.30am	Memorial Hall	
Charity Quiz	1st Saturday each month	8.00pm	The Bell	
Avening Singers	Sunday	4.00pm	tba	Derrick Pierce 01453 835090

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