

The Villager

A Magazine for Avening,
Cherington and Nags Head



April 2025

editors@villagemag.online



Richard Murray



Liane Wheeler



Raph Arwas



Annabel Crapper



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April 2025

Welcome to Spring at last!

Pets are an important part of many of our lives, so in this issue we are very pleased to welcome a new feature - Pet's Corner. We have two stories to start this off and are really looking forward to hearing from many of you about your pets of any size, from carthorse to goldfish or insect. They may be still bounding around with us or long gone but remain in fond memories. Not just adults - we hope there are some children in the villages who would like to tell us about their pets - and show us photos, of course.

Talking of photos: in case anyone was wondering where our last cover photo was taken, it was the footpath and small bridge over the stream running through the Poolhay, below Woodstock Lane Cottages. We have not received many photos recently - don't forget to send us anything you think is interesting, or illustrates a fun village event (how about the Playgroup's Easter Eggstravaganza on 12th April?) or one that might make a good cover. For the cover, they need to be quite high resolution and portrait orientation if possible and we keep anything promising, so you never know when your photo may appear!

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The Villager Magazine

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Deadline 18th of each month

Read online at www.avening-pc.gov.uk

Photographs in The Villager Magazine

Many thanks for the cover photo of lambs down West End Lane.

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

April Rainbows

"I seek the rainbow through the rain"

After the sunshine comes the rain, after the rain the sun,
Flinging bright rainbows across the skies— and April has begun!
Purple, indigo, blue and green, yellow, orange and red.
Their iridescent colours blending overhead
Purple for the violets, nestling in the lane,
Shyly hiding from the world, their scent a sweet refrain;
Indigo the storm-clouds swelling full of rain;
Blue the clean-washed sky above, when sun comes out again;
Green for the fresh, new shoots of Spring on flower, grass and tree;
Yellow the pretty primroses, a joy for all to see;
Orange is for tulips, thrusting up their heads,
Marching in proud battalions across our flower-beds;
Red the flaming sunsets, lighting up the skies,
Ending another April day with a hint of Paradise:
So many lovely colours, a gift for our delight.
So seek the rainbow through the rain, rejoicing in the sight.....

Gilian Bulmer-Davison



~ JOHAN OLNER ~

~ Avening based **Bicycle Mechanic** ~
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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
Friday 4th April	FOAS Quiz	Memorial Hall	7 pm
Saturday 12th April	Easter Eggstravaganza	Avening Playgroup	10am-12 noon
Tuesday 15th April	Avening Litter Pick	Social Club	9.30 am start
Saturday 10th May	Learn how to use a Defibrillator	Memorial Hall	10am
Sunday 8th June	Art Exhibition	Avening Church	



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!**

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 Churches



As a keen (but novice) gardener, April is one of my favourite months. The seedlings I planted in March can make their way to the greenhouse to begin hardening off, the trees are blossoming, and garden centres are full of tempting displays that seriously threaten my bank balance. It's a month filled with hope and anticipation of the glorious displays of colour that are just around the corner.

April is a month filled with hope and anticipation for other reasons, too. Ramadan has ended and Shawwal begun, our Jewish friends and neighbours will be celebrating Passover from the 12th - 20th, and Easter Day falls on the 20th April, bringing the joyful celebration of Jesus' resurrection. After more than 40 days of Lent (which feels even longer to those who've given up something for the season) there will be plenty of anticipation ahead of the big day. Both the colourful spring blooms and joyful cries of "Halleluiah! Christ is risen!" bring so much hope to a world emerging from the dark days of winter. Last month, I encouraged us to seek out joy – now, with Easter (almost) here and signs of spring all around us, we don't have to look hard to find it.

Joy comes in many forms. It might be a long-awaited event – a birth, holiday, retirement, or cup of tea and cake at the end of a long walk – or it might be little, unexpected moments, like bumping into an old friend or spotting an animal in the wild. The joy of Easter is both. Jesus' resurrection was long-awaited by people such as the faithful Simeon and Anna (see my February reflection) and unexpected, despite Jesus telling his disciples explicitly: 'The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.' (Matthew 9.31) It's incredible to think that this event is still bringing joy now, 2000 years later, as we celebrate the new life that it offers us.

Whether you're celebrating the end of Ramadan, the festivals of Passover or Easter, or simply the joy of spring, may this season of new life bring you unexpected moments of joy.

Revd. Natalie Jennings



Church Floodlighting

The church was floodlit on **Saturday 1st March**,
In loving memory of **Joan and Jim Morris**, whose 71st anniversary
would have been on this day.

And will be lit on **Tuesday 15th April**,
Remembering **Terry Francis** on his 77th birthday, with love, Jenny and family.

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.

Church Services

	AVENING	CHERINGTON
6th April 10.00am		Holy Communion
13th April 10am	Palm Sunday Service Holy Communion beginning outside with procession of palms	
17th April 5pm		Maundy Thursday service Holy Communion
18th April 2pm	Good Friday Service Tenebrae	
20th April 10am	Easter Day Service Holy Communion	Easter Day Service Holy Communion
27th April 10am	Holy Communion	
4th May 10am	Morning prayer	Holy Communion

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.

Letter from Chairman of Avening Parish Council



The sun has started to show its face in the last few days giving us some hope of better weather and warmer days to come.

For those villagers living in Old Hill or Rectory Lane, life has been disrupted by the Gas board digging holes in the roads for the renewal of the gas mains. While it is necessary work, it did result in disruption to waste collections. This is likely to continue for a week or so yet; but I have been liaising with the Cotswold District Council to reorganise their collection methods and residents have co-operated by grouping all the bins and bags in a central spot to make the collections as easy as possible for the collection lorries. I will continue to liaise with Ubico for the duration of the road closures with the aim of keeping the collections on the usual due dates.

Otherwise, all is relatively quiet in Avening at present; and as a result, there is minimal activity or news to report.

Playing Field – As I have mentioned in previous reports, the Parish Council has been looking at various actions to overcome the problem of dog poo being left uncollected by irresponsible dog owners. We have agreed on a plan of action which will include installation of cameras to identify the offenders. So please be aware, as offenders will be liable for significant fines.

So as to ensure that everyone will have the opportunity to abide by the rules and clean up after their pets; we will be supplying two containers which will hold new poo bags for anyone who forgets to bring their own. The containers will be sited adjacent to the two existing poo bins, and should be in situ before the end of March. Dog fouling of the playing field has been a problem for so many years - so please encourage everyone to be vigilant when their dogs are running and playing in the field. Let's make a real effort to keep our village clean and tidy, and the playing field in a hygienic condition for our children to enjoy.

Telephone Box – The Parish Council has agreed the allocation of funds to repair the telephone box. It is a listed 'building' and as such we have a legal responsibility to restore it as close as possible to its original condition. The work, which will take several days, will involve stripping off the old paint, repainting and fitting a new door. When completed we can then decide on its use (library etc).

Memorial Hall – Plans are being put in place to reroof the hall during the School summer holidays, and I will be able to give more details nearer that time.

Face Masks – Still available, free, from the Tuesday Café or by arrangement with any of the Parish Councillors.

Knead Bakery – Still visiting us on a regular basis, Last Saturday of each month, from 9.45 until 10.30am Outside of the Memorial Hall.

Best wishes to everyone.

Patrick Mulligan 07713068436

Puzzle Corner

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

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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 30

Longfield Community Hospice News

You may have seen our shops but how much do you know about your local Hospice? Longfield Community Hospice, based in Minchinhampton, provides community hospice care for much of Gloucestershire, from diagnosis onwards.



As well as providing Hospice at Home end of life care, Longfield also offers help and support to patients, families and carers through a range of Wellbeing, Counselling and Bereavement Support services at the hospice in Minchinhampton, all free of charge.

To help fund these services, we have many ways to donate money, as well as a continuous programme of fundraising events which you can get involved with through our website.

A few things that we have coming up are:

- **Bridal Gown Sale popping up 24th – 27th April in the Five Valleys Shopping Centre.** A chance to pop in, browse, try on, and buy from a large selection of new designer dresses at 75% off RRP.
- A chance to sign up to run the **2026 London Marathon** in aid of Longfield Hospice. We have a handful of runners running for us this year and you can read Lizzie's story on our website.
- **Spring Raffle** – Look out for our Spring Raffle tickets for a chance to win a cash prize whilst helping raise funds.

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

Thanks to those who attended our AGM on Monday 10th March when the committee was elected, we reviewed the previous year and considered ideas for the future, including possible charities to support.

Grateful thanks to Christine who provided tasty pancakes for our Shrove Tuesday Café.

For those wishing to participate in our “Litter Pick” on 15 April, we meet at 9:30 at the Social Club. Gloves, fluorescent jackets, bags and some litter grabbers will be provided, and you can enjoy WI bacon butties on return.

As we enter spring, if you wish to donate any surplus seeds, plants or produce, then please bring along to the Café “Plant Swop”. Any donations received go to Café charities.

A reminder to save your postage stamps for the RNIB - collecting box on the Café counter.

And don't forget that on Tuesday 22nd April we will have craft activities for the children to join in with.

April Dates

1st [Art with Mark](#) (£3 each, all materials supplied)

Plus **Grand National Sweepstake**

8th **Hot Cross Buns**

15th **Art with Mark** (£3 each, all materials supplied).

Plus **Café Litter Pick** (start 9:30)

22nd **Children's crafts**

29th **Seed & Plant swop**

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**

District Councillor's Report



Gloucestershire County Council (GCC): Whatever your views on our national government, it's important to understand what you are voting for in the May elections. You can obviously use your vote however you see fit, but the real purpose of the election is to vote for a councillor to represent you and the community at GCC. It's important to understand that GCC forms the biggest chunk of your council tax, and covers things such as roads, health and social care, and education. Do look at the manifestos of individual candidates and vote with your head, as protest votes can easily impact the costs and quality of the services you receive.

Litter: Another one to cast your mind back: a discarded McDonalds package was found in a local verge and the details passed on to our CDC fly tipping officer to trace the perpetrator. I can now confirm that a fine was issued and has been paid! Interestingly, a second package was found recently and that too has resulted in a substantial fine. The message is simple – just take your rubbish home and dispose of it properly.

Dog mess: this is a somewhat more difficult nut to crack and relies on witnesses coming forward to report incidents. Do let me know if you see anything, especially if you have photographic evidence, and I will be happy to progress the matter with CDC.

Roads: Having highlighted the issue to our County Councillor Stephan Fifield, I am pleased to confirm that he has worked with Highways and the passing places along Chavenage Lane will be properly reconstituted in May. I am hoping that the rutted verge areas along the well used lane will also be repaired.

Councillor Tony Slater

Cotswold District Council, Representing Grumbolds Ash with Avening.

email: Tony.slater@cotswold.gov.uk Tel: 07793669930

Other updates and information for Parish Councils:

UNSUNG HEROES

The Unsung Heroes Awards is to acknowledge all the work being done across the district by volunteers who give up their time to help others. Residents and businesses have nominated people in their communities who they think have made a difference, from individuals who give up their time to help neighbours, to members of local groups who volunteer to deliver local projects. This is a rolling scheme with winners announced at every Full Council meeting going forward. Please nominate your Unsung Hero here: www.cotswold.gov.uk/unsungheroes

FIX MY STREET

Report, view, or discuss local problems like graffiti, fly tipping, broken paving slabs, or street lighting. This reports back to the appropriate Council: **LINK REPORT IT**

<https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/report-it/>

New forms for reporting graffiti, overflowing bins, dog fouling and street cleaning are now live on the Cotswold District Council Website.

A map pin drop allowing for what3words location submissions can be used.

"Love is in the Air"

The words of that song could very well apply to what's going on in my garden at the moment.

Amongst other things I'm permanently checking that my bird bath has got enough water in it to accommodate all the washing and preening of feathers going on in the bird world. The other morning I watched a male blackbird having a really good, long, splashy bath before retiring underneath a nearby bush to preen his feathers, dry off and disappear. And, surprise, surprise, he was swiftly followed by a female blackbird following the same routine and also disappearing. So who knows - maybe they had a secret, pre-arranged assignation somewhere in the garden

There are also two very macho-looking male pheasants who strutt around the lawn keeping a respectful distance from each other but no doubt hoping that the female, who does appear from time to time, will turn up, but she's rather elusive and tends to appear when they've disappeared. Obviously she just doesn't fancy either of them.

After all the cold, grey, rainy days we've had, this burst of Spring sunshine has certainly transformed not only activity in the bird world but it's brought out quite a number of large bumble bees and, the other day, a yellow brimstone butterfly which landed on one of the shrubs and decided to do a bit of sun-bathing. A really welcome sight and it seemed to confirm that the whole garden had come back into vibrant life, helped by the wonderful colour-contrasts of the purple and yellow crocuses, golden daffodils, primroses and primulas and purple grape hyacinths.

But the star of the show is, without doubt, my amazing shocking-pink camellia bush that, all through the really cold weather, the rain and the frosts, has gone on producing buds which, in the last week or so have burst into these bright, colourful flowers and will now go on flowering for weeks to come.

So, forget the grey, rainy days we've had. We're now into the colourful, sunny days of Spring.

Listen to the birdsong, watch the arrival of lots of butterflies and bees. Take in all the colours and be happy that we're lucky to live surrounded by such beautiful and ever-changing, natural countryside.

Ann Tarlton



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

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AVENING PLAYGROUP'S
Easter
Eggstravaganza



SATURDAY 12TH APRIL

10 AM - 12 NOON

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Pets Corner

JAY

We had talked about having another dog but couldn't make a decision other than knowing a puppy at our age may not be a good idea - and anyway, did we want the responsibility. We were reconciled to the idea that something would happen.

"I wonder if you might know of anyone who would like a beautiful five year old black cocker. He is free to a good home. He was my elder sister's who has unfortunately passed away. He is a beautiful chap."



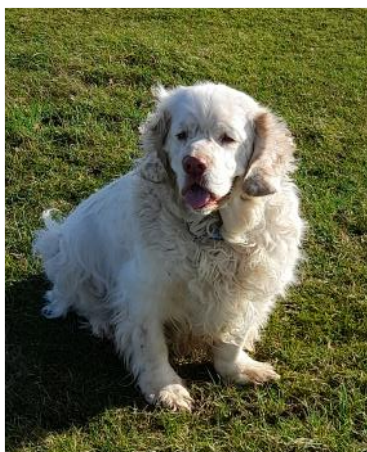
So read the text message forwarded to me by my son Will who runs Cotswold Pet Sitting and who had received it from one of his customers. I read it out to my wife Maura and we just looked at each other knowing full well that we did know someone.....US!

I arranged to meet the spaniel, Jay, for a walk on Minchinhampton Common. I saw that he was friendly, affectionate and full of life and knew then that we would be rehoming him. A few days later the son of his previous owner brought him over with his crate and favourite toys which helped him to settle down with us. He commented to Jay that he was a lucky boy and that he thought we loved him already. We certainly did.

Fast forward seven weeks and he is now a part of the family enjoying long walks in the countryside and cuddles on the sofa. He wants to be with us at all times which can be challenging and there is ongoing training to walk to heel but he is learning very quickly what we expect and is responding well.

His zest for life is infectious and although exhausting at times we now can't imagine life without him and feel that it was all meant to be. He really is a beautiful chap.

Peter Barton



BARNABY - 2011-2025

Clumber Spaniel

A wonderful soft and loyal dog, who loved long walks on May Hill, especially in the swampy patches, getting muddy paws, or on Stinchcombe Common, where golf balls were a challenge. It was nothing for him to come back with 3 or 4 golf balls in his mouth. Given the opportunity he would enjoy a good swim.

Pheasant or rabbits didn't interest him. In his late years, companionship was his priority.

He was the last of his pedigree line within his family.

The Clumber was first seen in the UK at the end of the 18th century and takes its name from Clumber Park in Nottingham, home of the Dukes of Newcastle, and it is the 2nd Duke who is credited with introducing and developing the breed.

Gill Parsons



Avening Playgroup

To start with I must say a very big thank you to everyone who came along to our playgroup spring clean on 8th March. Luckily, the weather was on our side and we were able to clean the safety surface under the climbing frame and slides, clear some of the drains, cut back the bushes and brambles around the perimeter as well as get a coat of paint on the front of the playgroup building. There are still a few things that need doing which we will organise another date for but we had a very productive morning with lovely cakes and coffee provided by the committee.

Unfortunately, we have had to cancel the Toddler Group on Friday mornings as this was not getting enough support. We have gone back to the drawing board and would like to set up a 2-year-old only session between 9.15am and 12.15am. This would work just like our playgroup sessions do, where children are dropped off and our qualified staff supervise the children for the session providing fun activities for them to join in with. Parents will need to register their child for the weekly term time sessions. If you would like more information about fees and the funding you may be entitled to, please contact Angie on the number/email below.



Over the last few weeks, we have been looking at the following topics:

Dinosaurs: looking at the names of different dinosaurs, playing 'Describe and Find the Dinosaur', creating a dinosaur footprint trail and colouring/drawing lots of dinosaurs.

World Book week: we concentrated on the story of The Gruffalo, retelling and acting it out, looking at and discussing the characters as well as colouring them. The children also brought in their favourite stories to share with their friends.

Spring : talking a lot about the four seasons and how they are different, drawing daffodils, making flower and lamb collages and looking at animals and their babies.

The children have also been enjoying playing outside more with the nicer weather, trying out new moves on the climbing frame! They also loved colouring an old cardboard box together.

Our next fundraiser will be our Easter Eggstravaganza on Saturday 12th April, between 10am and midday. This year we will be holding this at the playgroup and it will include:

Easter Egg Hunt, A 'Croc n Roll' session between 10.30 and 11.00 am; Giant bubbles, Easter crafts, water and sand play; Refreshments, Possibly a small toy sale

And all this for just £2!

If you are looking for a playgroup space for your child over the next couple of years, please

contact Angie on 01453 832695 or email aveningplaygroup@gmail.com in order to put their name on our waiting list or to arrange a time to visit the setting. We are open Monday to Wednesday 9.15-2.45 and Thursday 9.15 -1.15.

Angie Heslop

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Nailsworth Mills Bowls Club

Calling footballers, golfers, rugby, and cricket players, or anyone that would like something active and interesting to do on the long summer evenings or weekends – April 19th sees the grand opening of the new season at the Nailsworth Mills Bowling Club. Through the spring and summer we will have special 'Bowls Bash' events where anyone can learn the basics in a fun environment, or just come down to the club on any Friday evening to have a go - you'll be sure of a warm welcome. All you need is flat footwear, and we'll show you the rest – coaching is available if you like what you find and want to learn more.

Our membership fees are modest (just £60 in the first year) as the members run the club, and the bar prices are very attractive.

Watch out for our special event dates, in this publication, on our Facebook page, or check updates at <https://www.nailsworthmillsbowls.club/>





Friends of Avening School

Wow - what an absolutely wonderful Circus themed World Book Celebration! The school was transformed by the brilliant Ms Adcock, and students were set to 'roll up roll up' in their fantastic costumes. The School of Larks gave some excellent circus training, and parents were treated to a special performance. Mrs Rushton showed us her superb multitasking abilities by balancing four spinning plates at once! Thank you to Ms Adcock and all the staff at for making it all so much fun! We were delighted to help fund such a special day.



BREAK THE RULES DAY: Friday 4th April

Enjoy a school day full of broken rules! Pay 50p per rule you'd like to break or pay £2 to break them all! Bring in cash on the day, or pay in advance on the FOAS website - www.foas.org.uk

QUIZ NIGHT (Adults Only): Friday 4th April - Avening Memorial Hall

Hosted by the brilliant Jo Harris, with Alex Adcock working her magic on the quiz questions. Thanks to the generous sponsorship from Scimitar Sports, we have a £100 cash prize for the winning team! Expect hot food, drinks, a raffle, and plenty of extra quiz prizes.

EASTER EGG HUNT & BONNET PARADE: Friday 11th April

FOAS will be providing some **eggceptional** Easter treats to seek in this year's school egg hunt, alongside an eggciting Easter Bonnet Parade! The children will parade their creations around the hall in an Easter Celebration Assembly. FOAS will be providing prizes for the best bonnets!

FUNDRAISING TARGETS: As part of this year's fundraising, we're raising funds for a new handwriting scheme that will benefit children across the school.

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Avening School

Spring has sprung here at Avening School with daffodils bursting open in the school garden and local wildlife waking up from their winter sleep.

Spring term kicked off in style with our annual trip to Young Voices in Birmingham at the end of January. Our children sang as part of a choir of over 5,000 schoolchildren and were accompanied by an array of musical talent including M.C. Grammar and Strictly Come Dancing's Tommy Blaize.

Continuing on a musical theme, in February, we were joined by the Longborough Playground Opera who ran a workshop for the Owls class (y5/6) culminating in them performing in the chorus with some incredibly talented professional opera singers. It was an unforgettable experience and an insight into the world of opera.



Another visitor to our school in February was Tweedy the Clown who came to read from his new picture book Tweedy: the clown who lost his nose. He entertained the whole school (including the staff) with his storytelling, circus skills and comical capers.

Our event with Tweedy influenced our choice of theme for our World Book Day celebration. This year, we chose to celebrate books relating to The Circus and transformed our school into a Big Top for the day with activities from treasure hunts in the garden to making our own books, and included a very special visit from the School of Larks circus school who taught the children circus skills throughout the day.

As we look ahead, we have our annual school talent show, where the children have the opportunity to showcase their special talents and skills in front of the rest of the school. This year, for the first time, we are also inviting children to show off their creative skills by exhibiting their artwork for one another to enjoy.

Please join us for a fabulous night of fun and trivia at our annual FOAS quiz night on Friday 4th April at 7pm in the Memorial Hall. Funds raised will go towards funding a new handwriting scheme that will benefit children across the whole school and essential resources such as whiteboards, pens and sand trays to support the children's learning. Please join us if you can.

For more information about this busy place of learning, please see our school website: www.avening.gloucs.sch.uk

Alex Adcock



Cobalt is making a significant impact across Gloucestershire, and your involvement can make a difference.

Capture Your Moment for Cobalt

We are excited to announce our 2025 charity photography competition, open from April through July, for participants of all ages and skill levels. By sharing your inspirational photos, you stand a chance to win a prize and support our charity. Each entry costs just £2. All funds raised will support the Cobalt Teenage and Young Adult Nurse in Gloucestershire. For more details, visit our website.

Upcoming Events - for full details, please visit our website.

Make A Will Month – During April, local partnering solicitors have volunteered their time to write a basic will in exchange for a small donation to Cobalt.

Quenington Open Garden & Rare Plant Fair – 13th April - Stroll riverside gardens, browse rare plants, and enjoy homemade treats. Entry £8 (cash only), 11 am-4pm

Discover more about Cobalt at www.cobalthealth.co.uk emailing us at fundraising@cobalthealth.co.uk, or calling 01242 535922

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Avening WI

Each year every WI member has the opportunity to select and vote for a resolution on which the NFWI will campaign in the coming year. The most votes nationally were for the resolution 'Bystanders can be Lifesavers' which aims to encourage members of the public to learn how to use a Defibrillator. With this in mind AWI, together with the Parish Council, have arranged a talk and demonstration by David Owen PhD to be held in the Memorial Hall on Saturday 10th May at 10am. This is a free event, open to all villagers, friends and family. It is a training session and there will be the opportunity to handle the equipment and learn CPR skills. Please come along and learn how to save a life.



In March the WI team ran the Community Cafe with a St. David's Day theme.

Our theatre group enjoyed The Barn Theatre's production of 'A Role to Die For' set in the office of a lead film producer, Deborah. WHO IS GOING TO BE THE NEW 007?? Will it be her son Quinn, a gay, vegetarian who sports an 'Eat the Rich' t-shirt? Will it be A Female Bond? A Black Bond? A Gay Bond? The cast was brilliant and the evening sped along at a racing pace. It was a witty, laugh out loud production.

Another group travelled to Bristol Hippodrome to see the Chinese Dance Company, Shen Yun. The performance was divided into set pieces, each story representing periods in China before the era of communism. The athleticism of the dancers and the costumes were spectacular; an interactive screen at the back of the stage, and the orchestra playing both European and Chinese instruments, adding to the experience.

Our Cotswold Way Walkers set off again walking the section through Little Sodbury, Old Sodbury and Dodington Park finishing at Tormarton. Although the Cotswold Way is a popular, well-trodden long distance path, we have found it is a very quiet and peaceful route with amazing views. There are always interesting things to see; on this stretch some really ancient trees (one walker loves to tree hug!) and an Old Sodbury cottage with a display of old railway signs. The next stage will take us from Tormarton to Cold Ashton.

As I write this on a beautiful sunny day a group is walking around Rodborough, looking at Arts and Craft cottages, followed by lunch at the Amberley Inn. Coming up in late March, early April, we have a Mosaic Workshop planned and a visit to Dyrham Park to see the magnificent display of tulips. Our popular Village Quiz will be raising money for Homestart.

Our speaker in March was Rhiannon Parker –'Fraud Awareness and Advice'. Rhiannon, a fraud protection officer from the Gloucester Police Service, gave us an informative talk about some of the most common forms of fraud involving phone calls and email and social media hacking, and how to avoid being scammed.

The speaker at the April monthly meeting is Helen Mugridge telling us about 'Galapagos,

our voyage aboard The Beagle’.

Our meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month at 7.30 in the Memorial Hall. Visitors and prospective members are always welcome.

For more information about Avening WI please contact our secretary Helen at aveningwi@gmail.com or 01453 835484

Bridget Seward

AVENING CINEMA CLUB



The next film will be on **WEDNESDAY 30 April**
Doors open 7pm. Film starts 7.30pm. Interval halfway

Please feel free to bring refreshments

AVENING MEMORIAL HALL

Admission £5

The film club runs on the last Wednesday of every month.

Contact us at aveningcinemaclub@gmail.com



- April 5 Music for Miniatures:** music for babies where there is no need to sit still and dancing is encouraged! Enjoy 45 minutes of live classical music with your little ones, ages 0-4. Tickets adults £6, Children £4, under 1 free. 10.30am
- April 6 Chris Treglown Awards:** An exciting concert featuring 14 up and coming singers from the world of musical theatre and opera competing for the Chris Treglown Memorial prize. Tickets £12.50 in advance. 7pm
- April 10 National Theatre Live Screening:** Stanley Kubrick’s Dr. Strangelove, starring Steve Coogan. The story of a rogue US general who tries to start a nuclear war! Tickets £15 in advance. 7.30pm
- April 12 Faeland:** Timeless folk meets contemporary Indie with echoes of Joni Mitchell and Fleetwood Mac but in unique and original formats. Tickets in advance £12.50. 7.30pm
- April 26 The Remi Harris Hot Club Jazz Trio:** A spellbinding evening of Gypsy Jazz and Blues inspired by legends like Django Reinhardt, Peter Green, Wes Montgomery, Jimi Hendrix, and Joe Pass. Tickets in advance £15. 7.30pm

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

I've recently found myself living alone after a relationship breakdown . My council tax bill is due soon, and I'm worried I won't be able to afford to pay it on my own. I'm already struggling to cover the cost of my other bills. What can I do?



You're not alone in worrying about struggling to pay your bills. It's a difficult time for people who are battling rising costs for food and essentials, as well as seeing bills creep up.

Fortunately, there are options available to people struggling to pay their council tax, but you'll need to find out if you're eligible first. You might be entitled to pay less, or not at all, depending on your circumstances, because councils offer discounts and other reductions.

Firstly, because you're the only adult living in your home, your council tax bill can be reduced by a quarter. For example, if your bill is £1,000 for the year, you'll only have to pay £750 now that you live on your own. You'll need to tell your council someone has moved out of your home and the date that they left. You're entitled to the discount from when they moved out - even if it was a while ago.

When the council works out how many people live in a property, there are certain people that don't count - they're called 'disregarded people'. This includes under-18s, full-time students, long-term hospital patients, people with severe mental impairments, and many more. You can check our website (www.citizensadvice.org.uk) for more information on disregarded people. In some situations, everyone living in a home is disregarded. If this is the case, the council tax bill will be reduced by half. If everyone in a home is a student or severely mentally impaired, there'll be no council tax to pay.

If you live with an adult who isn't disregarded, but who is on a low income or receives certain benefits, you might be able to get a discount called a 'second adult rebate'. You can find out more about getting a second adult rebate on our website.

If you or someone you live with is disabled, this can also affect your council tax banding. If your home has been adapted, you can ask to be placed down one band. For example, if you're living in a band C property that has been adapted for a disabled resident, you should only be charged council tax for a band B property.

There's also something called Council Tax Reduction, which is designed for people on low incomes. Your council will ask for details about your income and circumstances, to check if you're eligible. If you are, they'll reduce the amount of council tax you have to pay. When it comes to Council Tax Reductions, different rules apply depending on whether you've reached State Pension age.

And lastly, if you're struggling to pay for essentials, your council can reduce your bill further, or cancel it altogether, under what's known as a 'discretionary reduction'. This usually only happens if you can provide evidence that you're suffering severe hardship and can't afford to pay council tax. If you're in this situation, ask your council for help.

If you're not given a discretionary reduction, you might be able to appeal to a valuation tribunal. If the tribunal agrees with you, they can order your council to reduce or even cancel your council tax bill.

Whatever circumstances you're in, if you're struggling with your council tax payments, it's important to let your council know. Citizens Advice is also here to help you find a way forward, should you need our support.

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Puzzle Answers

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

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Avening Parish Council



Dog Fouling: A complaint has been received from a resident regarding a dog being allowed to foul next to a disability vehicle and it not being picked up. This is unacceptable. Please report any incidents witnessed to CDC. <https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/environment/litter-street-cleaning-and-dog-fouling/>. The Parish Council are going to pilot the installation of dog waste bags in the playground. Please use them.

Littering: Be warned - CDC issued a £500 fine to a local resident for dropping a McDonalds wrapper in the lanes around Avening. McDonalds were very helpful identifying the culprit.

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

New Planning Applications

25/00473/FUL: The Barn Gatcombe View Stable Woodstock Lane Conversion of a barn to a dwelling (Part Retrospective). The Parish Council strongly object to this application.

25/00509/TCONR: Brook House Hampton Hill Large, mature poplar' Repollard below previous pollard leaving the new pollard at 6 meters in height. Cllr King said this application was approved on 13th March.

25/00346/FUL 43: High Street Installation of 2 no. roof windows to front elevation and patio doors to rear of dwelling – No comment

Cotswold District Council Planning Decisions

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 – No Objection, Hawthorn (T2) – Fell Sycamore (T3) - Reduce the crown height from 22m to 18m and the radial spread from 12m to 8m. Yew trees (G1) - Reduce the height of the trees from 10m to 4m and reduce the eastern side of the crown behind the railings.

24/03666/TCONR Holy Cross Church Sycamore x 2 (G1) – Fell Yew (T1) - reduce the height to match the neighbouring tree line. No Objection

25/00635/TCONR Blenheim Cottage 3 Woodstock Lane - Hazel tree - crown reduction of 50% - No Objection.

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 – No Objection

Neighbourhood Policing Team

Police Sergeant Garrett Gloyn, 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



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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 07726 345516
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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