

The Villager

A Magazine for Avening,
Cherington and Nags Head



September 2025

editors@villagermag.online



Richard Murray



Liane Wheeler



Raph Arwas



Annabel Crapper



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September 2025

Welcome to the September edition of The Villager, we hope you have had an enjoyable summer and have been able to make the most of the good weather.

The start of the new academic year brings changed routines for many families, with new classes to join, and for some, new schools, colleges or universities to attend. Good luck to you all!

September is also a good time to try a new a social or recreational activity. There are many events and regular activities that take place in our villages, such as the Cinema Club, Community Café, WI, Avening Singers, the Silver Band and Fun Skittles. This month the Cinema Club will be showing the latest Bridget Jones movie, sure to be a popular event.

Sunday September 14th brings the traditional Pig Face Day to Avening, a now biennial celebration of the building of Avening Church. On page 31 of the magazine you can read Queen Matilda's latest diary entry, explaining the story behind the building of Holy Cross church. For those interested in finding out more about the tradition of Pig Face Day there are many fascinating photographs and articles on the history archive page on the Avening Parish Council website, well worth a look.

The Villager Editors

The Villager Magazine

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Photographs in The Villager Magazine

Many thanks to FOAS for our cover photo of Avening School children at the end of last term. Please keep sending us your photographs, especially since all the images will be in colour in the downloadable version of the Magazine.

editors@villagermag.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

Sweet September Dawn

Oh sweet September dawn! So gently bathed
In drifting mists of gossamer, all wreathed
Round quiet valleys and majestic trees,
And dew-drenched fields, in opal mists all swathed
Slow, from the east comes sunlight softly stealing,
Touching each drop of dew upon the grasses,
Lighting the golden cornfield as it passes,
The muted beauty of the earth revealing
Now golden sunshine floods across the meadows,
Sweeping aside the veils that cloaked the dawn,
Greeting with warm delight this new day, born
Out of the tender depths of night's soft shadows.
Clear birdsong breaks the silence of the morning,
Waking the peaceful countryside from sleep,
To hushed expectancy that day will keep
The promise of this sweet September dawning.....

Gilian Bulmer-Davison

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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
Wednesday 3rd September	First day of term parents event	Avening Church	8.30-10am
Sunday 14th September	Pig Face Day celebrations	Avening	11am onwards
Saturday 27th September	Apple Pressing	Avening Memorial Hall	10am-1pm
Saturday 11th October	Harvest Festival and supper	Cherington Church and Village Hall	5pm

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AVENINGCINEMA CLUB

Choices for October and November

1. **The Penguin Lessons** Cert 12. Cast: Steve Coogan, Bruno Blas, Julia Fossi and Jonathan Pryce. Directed by: Peter Cattaneo
2. **Casablanca** Cert U. Cast: Humphrey Bogart, Ingrid Bergman, Sydney Greenstreet, Peter Lorre, Claude Rains, Sz Sakall, . Directed by: Michael Curtiz
3. **The Princess Bride (30th Anniversary Edition)** Cert PG. Cast: Cary Elwes, Robin Wright. Directed by: Rob Reiner
4. **The Apprentice** Cert 15. Cast: Sebastian Stan, Jeremy Strong. Directed by: Ali Abbasi
5. **We Live In Time** Cert 15. Cast: Lee Braithwaite, Grace Delaney, Andrew Garfield, Florence Pugh. Directed by: John Crowley
6. **Maria** Cert 12 . Cast: Haluk Bilginer, Pierfrancesco Favino, Angelina Jolie, Alba Rohrwacher. Directed by: Pablo Larrain.

Send your 2 favourite choices to: rimajones@btinternet.com

Avening and Cherington Churches



As September rolls round once again, we find ourselves at the start of a new academic year. It's a month of change for many of us, even if our daily routines aren't shaped by the school calendar. The changing colours of the trees (which began before I wrote this letter in mid-August) remind us that autumn is almost upon us, and with it our minds turn to the changing pace of the months ahead.

For me, September marks the return of various meetings and regular events, as well as the beginning of Harvest Festival season – an unofficial season in the liturgical calendar! We'll be celebrating Harvest on the 28th September in Avening and 11th October in Cherington – see the list of services for more details. There are also two weddings in my diary this month. Add to that Pig Face Day in Avening and the Pet Service in Cherington and there's plenty to keep me busy!

I wonder how the changing season makes you feel. Maybe it excites you to think of all the different events that lie ahead. Or perhaps the thought of cooling days and busier weeks makes you anxious. Maybe it's just another season and you don't think too much about it. For me, the sight of my diary filled with so many entries makes me a bit anxious, wondering how I'll get through it all. As I looked at it just now, a Bible verse popped into my head – one I often read at the beginning of a funeral service:

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." (Lamentations 3:22-23). This verse reminds me both that God's love is steadfast and will carry me through all that lies ahead, and that each day is new – a chance to encounter God's mercy once again.

Whether you're excited for the month ahead or worrying about the changes to come, may you know the steadfast and abundant love of God, and remember that each day offers a fresh start.

With every blessing
Revd. Natalie Jennings

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**.



From 1 November please contact Nicholas Winkfield on 07885 139275

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

Church Services

	Avening	Cherington
Sunday 7th September	10am Morning Prayer	10am Holy Communion and Pet Service
Sunday 14th September	11am Patronal Festival, followed by fizz and cake ahead of Pig Face Day celebrations	No service
Sunday 21st September	6pm Evening Prayer	10am Holy Communion
Sunday 28th September	11am Harvest Festival followed by a bring-and-share lunch	No service
Sunday 5th October	10am Morning Prayer	10am Holy Communion
Saturday 11th October		5pm Harvest Festival followed by Harvest Supper

Tea and Tissues

Wednesday, September 3rd 8:30 until 10am

The beginning of term in Avening: When you drop off your children on that first day, come up to the church to meet with other families from school or playgroup. Free coffee and biscuits will be available, and there are tissues on every table for those recovering from an emotional start to the day. Toys and puzzles will be set out for younger siblings, and all will be very welcome.

Puzzle Corner

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

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

District Councillor's Report



Cotswold District Council (CDC): With two O&S meetings and a full council there's a lot to digest from July! The full council was mostly a wider discussion on these items:

Overview & Scrutiny (O&S): The most critical task for CDC is to complete a revised Local Plan to protect against speculative and uncontrolled development. The plan was already in production, but the Government imposition of new housing targets (increased from under 400 to 1,036 per year) means the Cotswold district now only has a 1.8 year supply of housing instead of the previous 5 years required. The main problem in achieving anything like this number is that once the highly protected Cotswold Landscape (formerly AoNB) is taken out, plus other unsuitable areas such as flood plains, there is only 16% of the district available for development. This will focus any strategic developments on to a very small number of communities, which will inevitably lead to objections and legal challenges. O&S recommended several actions for the Cabinet (later accepted), most notably to use appropriate reserve pots to fully resource and fast track production of the plan; and to write to the Secretary of State to argue that the target is unachievable (the letter has now been sent).

We reviewed the financial performance for quarter 3 – there were several areas that had improved since the last review, and others that had deteriorated – notably, the income from car parking was £82,000 down on forecasts. When I queried this shortfall; the response was that CDC had lost its two enforcement officers so there was no income from parking tickets! New wardens are now being employed, so the 'free parking holiday' should now cease. Also down was the forecast income from cemeteries due to 'lower service provision' – arguably a good thing?

It should also be noted that in a written response to my question, there will be no further spending on the Publica transition of resources back to CDC until the outcome of local council reorganisation is known. The planning team are now almost at full capacity, with 80% of applications being dealt with on time, but the Enforcement team are still struggling. They were the subject of a recent peer review and action plan, with several important initiatives to be implemented, including a new triage process, IT improvements, and actively using software already available. These improvements won't immediately help to reduce the 561 outstanding cases, and even new cases are likely to take up to 6 months to be dealt with! This was a pertinent discussion as I had two new urgent planning breaches the same week, one of which broke during the meeting! This will be very frustrating news for all those affected, and O&S recommended to Cabinet that resources be prioritised in this area.

At an earlier full council a motion was proposed to write to the Chancellor Rachel Reeves concerning the imposition of Inheritance Tax (IHT) on farms. The motion was deferred to O&S to investigate the matter in more detail, and what is called a Task & Finish group reported back their recommendations. The result was a very constructive set of options including one to charge Capital Gains Tax on any future sale rather than IHT. This would help protect our essential small farms, but rightly tax speculators trying to avoid IHT on their estates. It would also help to reduce the artificially high price of land, and give

farmers, whose industry average age is 59, a fair opportunity to plan for any future taxes. The recommendations were enthusiastically approved at full council, with the final wording to be agreed. Will we be able to change the Chancellor's mind - probably not, as she didn't even consult with the industry before imposing it, but at least we can show we are constructively supporting our farmers in the Cotswolds.

Avening Stream: For several years we have had issues with water levels in the stream which has completely dried up this summer. I have been working with the Environment Agency (EA) and several water authorities to understand why. A report was commissioned with Wessex Water to study the impact of housing on our underground aquifers, and this will be published in September - I'll provide a summary when it is available, but one headline is that the additional housing in Tetbury is apparently not to blame, their source aquifer runs further down our system around Longford's Mill. This still doesn't answer our issue, and I am continuing to work with the agencies to identify the major causes.

The Cirencester Fire Station roundabout works have been completed! The roundabout on the dual carriageway in Cirencester, closest to the Fire Station, along with the mini roundabout at the junction of Love Lane and Midland Road, underwent a major upgrade to improve traffic capacity and flows, improve safety, and mitigate flooding in the area. A drainage basin has been created in the central island, to mitigate flooding issues. This island was reduced in size to create extra lanes on the roundabout. The existing verges have been reduced to create a three-lane entry from Midland Road onto the main roundabout. Intelligent traffic lights on the main roundabout are operational 24hrs a day, which can detect vehicle levels and react accordingly to improve traffic flow. The two signal-controlled pedestrian crossings have been installed providing safe crossing points for pedestrians and cyclists which are activated by push buttons.

Councillor Tony Slater, Representing Grumbolds Ash with Avening.

email:

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

Additional Information

Community Governance Review (CGR): The District Council has received two formal requests, one from a Parish Council asking to change to a Parish Meeting, and the other requesting an increase in the number of parish councillors. CDC are therefore preparing to undertake a CGR and are inviting all other Parish and Town Councils/Meetings to consider whether there are changes you would like to propose. These can include: Creating, merging, altering, or abolishing parishes; changing the name of a parish; reviewing electoral arrangements (e.g. number of councillors, warding); to reflect local circumstances. PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH ME if you would like more information relating to CGRs. The review is expected to take place over the next 9–12 months, with any changes implemented at the ordinary elections in May 2027. Requests should be made to elections@cotswold.gov.uk no later than 30 September 2025.

Crowdfund: The latest round of funding is now open, and the Council is encouraging individuals, groups, and organisations to get involved and share their ideas for projects that will benefit their local communities. The deadline to apply is 24 September 2025. If you are interested in raising funds for your own ideas you can get started today by visiting the Crowdfund Cotswold website and creating your own project page.

PIG FACE DAY CELEBRATION

SUNDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2025



Avening Church of the Holy Cross (1100)

Celebration of the Church's dedication service

Procession from Church to Memorial Hall (1220)

Vaguely medieval fancy dress encouraged

The Avening Singers
Queen Matilda: The Play by Avening School
The Avening Silver Band

Refreshments

The Bell Inn (from 1200)
(Drinks may be carried into the Hall)

Avening WI

Coffee, tea and soft drinks
Pulled Pork and apple sauce baps, plus vegetarian option (only
£2.50!)

Outdoor Activities

Traditional Games by Avening Playgroup and the Social Club
Sweet Treats stall by Avening Playgroup
Dave's Ice Cream Van

Everyone Welcome – Remember to bring Cash!



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Letter from Roz Savage MP



Listening, Learning, and Local Voices

Over the summer, I've been making the most of the parliamentary recess to get out and about across the South Cotswolds - and what a pleasure it's been. Between 28 July and 28 August, I held 17 'Meet Your MP' events in town halls, village halls and open-air spots in Cirencester and Malmesbury. These informal drop-ins were a fantastic way to meet people where they are - in the heart of their own communities. Whether we chatted in a village hall or on the pavement in the middle of a market, I genuinely valued every conversation. Some came with specific concerns or questions; others just wanted to say hello. All were welcome, and every exchange helped deepen my understanding of what matters most to people in our part of the world.



In Avening, I was especially glad to speak with residents face-to-face. A big thank you to everyone who came along to the Avening Community Cafe on 29 July - your warmth and openness made it a really engaging morning.

There were common threads running through the conversations: access to GPs and dentists, the future of rural transport, housing that local families can afford, and how we support our farmers while protecting the landscapes we love. These are national issues, yes - but they land here in very local ways, and that's where we see the true impact on everyday life.

I also heard uplifting stories - from volunteers running food banks and youth clubs, to local entrepreneurs doing brilliant things with small businesses, to neighbours coming together to tackle loneliness. These are the moments that remind me why I stepped into public life: to help create the conditions where people and communities can thrive.

Those stories were part of what inspired me to launch my new website: www.strongersouthcotswolds.co.uk. I hope you'll take a look. It's a space where we're sharing local success stories, practical resources, and ideas that can make a real difference - whether you're looking for community funding advice or simply want to be inspired by what's possible.

What I love most about this role is hearing directly from you. I've always said I want to be an MP with the community, not just for it - and that starts with listening, staying curious, and being open to new ideas. These summer conversations have already helped shape my focus as I return to Parliament this autumn - and they'll continue guiding my work back here at home too.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to talk. My team and I are already thinking about how we can do this again soon. In the meantime, I'll keep working hard on your behalf - with care, with purpose, and with hope and optimism for all we can achieve together.

Warm wishes,

Roz

Email: roz.savage.mp@parliament.uk | Call: 01285 300555

Sandford Trust

Small grants are available from the Sandford Trust, a charity for local young people going on to university or work based training. We would welcome applications from anyone living in the parish of Avening, on or before 12th September, after which the annual distribution of funds will be made.

To apply for a grant please write to:



**Kelly Wilkinson
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Avening WI



Apologies to all the villagers who wondered what the noise was coming from the Social Club one Thursday afternoon in August - it was just Avening WI enjoying an African drumming session with Andy Fowler of Stroud! We booked him for our Summer Social this year and kept the details secret from members, just saying that it would be a musical afternoon. Luckily it

was a great success as 35 members, past and present, embraced the challenge and after an hour's tuition were able to produce some great rhythms. Andy was an excellent teacher and got everyone involved in playing. He also told us about the various drums and their sounds, showing us how to achieve them.

This was followed by reviving tea and cake, and lots of chatter especially with former members who had returned to Avening to join us.

The committee are preparing for more exciting events in the autumn. Firstly helping to keep the village tradition of Pig Face Day alive on Sunday 14th September by providing Pulled Pork and apple sauce baps, with a roasted vegetable option, in the Memorial Hall following the School Play. We also have a theatre trip booked to see Haywire- the story of The Archers and a Craft Day to have a go at a variety of crafts. This is in addition to all our usual activities and meetings.



As I write, we are preparing for the annual Group Meeting with Kemble and Ewen and Tetbury WIs, this year hosted by Kemble with a VE/VJ anniversary theme.

We are a friendly and welcoming group so if you would like to join us or just come along for a visit, our next meeting will be on Thursday September 11th at 7.30 pm at the Memorial Hall. Our speaker will be Christine Hindler with a talk entitled 'Knitting Around the World.....almost!'

For further details please email Aveningwi@gmail.com or check out our Facebook page Avening WI (where you can also view a short clip of the African Drumming finale!)

Helen Haiselden

New Term 'To Do' List

- Buy new uniform/work wear/shoes
- Pay for school trip
- New work diary
- New books!
- Arrange bus fares

Laptop? > get necessary equipment!
ACEEF!*

*The Avon Church of England Education Fund have the means to financially support the education of Avon residents up to age 25. To apply for a grant please contact 01453 833016 or email buchanan.el@gmail.com

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A Word of Thanks – From Cherington Village

Well now, wasn't that a day?

I may be just a little village tucked up on the hill, but on Sunday 27th July, I was brimming with life. Laughter echoed down Pear Tree Row, the scent of barbecue and fresh cake filled the air, and my green heart – the village green – pulsed with excitement, fun, and muddy paws.



To everyone who came to visit me, thank you. You came from near and far, brought your families and your friends, and filled my streets, paddocks, and Green with joy. You admired the flowers, marvelled at the crafts, tried your luck on the bottle stall, and enjoyed a very British cup of tea on the lawn at Coxes Farm. You clapped for the Morris dancers, cheered for the dogs, rang my church bells and filled my raffle pots — and in doing so, you helped raise vital funds for my two oldest and dearest buildings: the **Church** and the **Village Hall**.

I want to thank those who gave so generously. Not just coins and card taps (though every one of those mattered), but those who gave their time,



their tables, their gazebos, their bakes, their books, their bottles, their backs and their brilliant ideas. You filled my stalls, swept my verges, welcomed strangers and smiled all day. Whether you were stacking chairs, directing cars, pulling pints or selling frocks — I noticed.

To the children who bounced and played and guessed and giggled — I heard every squeal. To the dogs who trotted in proudly for the Fun Dog Show — I wagged my imaginary tail for you all. And to all of you in Avening, Nags Head and Cherington, well... it was lovely to see you again, too.

The 80th Cherington Show was everything I hoped it would be: full of charm, community and celebration. My old stones and hedgerows are still buzzing from the memory of it all.

Thank you for bringing me alive. Until next year —
With love,



Cherington Village



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AVENINGCINEMA CLUB

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**Wednesday 24th
September**

Doors open 7pm. Film starts
7.30pm. Interval halfway

Please feel free to bring
refreshments

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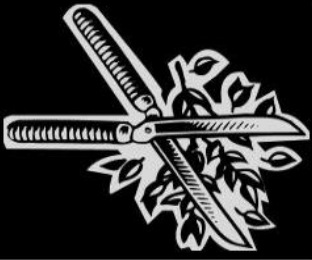
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Avening Community Café

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

Congratulations and best wishes to Margaret on her 90th birthday at the start of August.

The Café warmly welcomed Roz Savage MP on 29 July who gave a short talk and spent the morning chatting to Café customers and even trying her hand on the latest rag rug project - depicting the Memorial Hall and a tribute to those villagers who gave their lives in the two world wars.



During the school holidays it was really nice to see families at the Café and for the children to have a go at some craft activities. Free biscuits and drinks continue to be available for any children who attend.

We were pleased to catch up with Clare on our “Book Swop” day when she brought along the Book Box from Old Hill for us to browse through and add extra books. We are looking forward to the conversion of the High Street telephone box into a book swop facility.

Plants & Produce: Don't let your surplus produce go to waste - bring along to the Café any Tuesday morning and place on the “Plant & Produce” table. Donations received go to Café charities. Thanks to generous donations to date we will shortly be making a gift to Longfield Community Hospice.

September Dates

2nd Art with Mark (£3 each, all materials supplied), last chance to bring your children before schools return

9th WI bacon butties

16th Art with Mark (£3 each, all materials supplied)

23rd Macmillan Coffee Morning – all profits today to this charity

30th Meet with friends for morning coffee

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SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS AT TETBURY GOODS SHED

Sept 11 Fitzwilliam String Quartet with Sarah Nicolls: To mark the 50th anniversary of Shostakovich's death, the quartet joins forces with pianist Sarah Nicolls to perform the composer's only piano quintet, the premiere of which featured Shostakovich himself at the piano. Advance tickets £24. 7.30pm

Sept 12 Fugue and Groove Jazz Trio: Take a selection from the classical piano repertoire and add in generous helping of swing jazz and funky/Latin stylings and you have tonight's programme! Advance tickets £15. 7.30pm

Sept 18 National Theatre Live - Inter Alia: In a new play by Suzie Miller, Oscar-nominated Rosamund Pike (Gone Girl, Saltburn) is Jessica in the much-anticipated play from the team behind Prima Facie. Advance tickets £15. 7pm

Sept 20 Tetbury Police Museum Family Day: Come along to their "Crime Lab" at The Goods Shed to learn how the work of detectives has changed over time —there will be plenty of hands-on activities for the whole family! Free.10-3pm

Sept 24 Shed Talk: Get an insider's view of the world of art and valuables from Antiques Roadshow expert Marc Allum – who'll also cast his expert eye over objects brought along by the audience. Advance tickets £12. 7.30pm.

Sept 25 Film: The Salt Path: In this now controversial film a couple lose their home and later discover the husband has been diagnosed with a terminal illness as they embark on a year-long coastal trek. Advance tickets £7.50. 7pm

Check our website for further details of films, Wednesday afternoon concerts, exhibitions, workshops and talks and to book tickets

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Avening Playgroup



We have been making the most of the lovely summer weather. The Stay & Play sessions on Thursday throughout the summer holidays have been a great success and have been very well supported. It has been lovely to see so many people at the playgroup again.

Due to the success of these sessions, we will look to continue to do something similar during half terms and the Easter holidays. We are also planning to continue these Thursday sessions during term time. The first one

in the autumn term will be on Thursday 4th September, same time 9.30 until 11.00 am.

Don't forget our opening hours from September 2025 will be: **Musical Mondays** 9am – 3pm; **Adventure Tuesdays** 9am – 3pm; **Wise Owl Wednesdays** 9am – 3pm

Our first day back is Wednesday 3rd September. We look forward to seeing the children and their families then. Don't forget "Tea and Tissues" at the Church from 8.30 to 10.00 am on the first day back!

We have spaces left for the Autumn term, so if you would like more information about the playgroup or to place your child on our waiting list and book a time to look around the setting, please call us on 01453 832695 (weekdays during term time) or email aveningplaygroup@gmail.com.

Angie Heslop

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9am – 3pm



Spaces available from September 2025!

Tel: 01453 832695

Email: aveningplaygroup@gmail.com

Website: www.aveningplaygroup.co.uk

Charity Registration number: 900618



"Man's inhumanity to man makes countless thousands mourn"

So wrote the poet Robert Burns in 1784 and, sadly, it would seem that the world hasn't changed much since he made that comment all those years ago.

But it's when you hear, as I did the other day, of the kindness of a complete stranger, then you realise that goodness and kindness do still exist in the world. This particular incident happened to a friend of mine who lives some distance away. She called me and said "My faith in humanity has just been restored - I've just got to tell you the most amazing thing that happened to me yesterday" were her opening words.

She and her husband had been away for a few days and as they were on their way home she realised that she needed to stock up the larder so as they were passing a small supermarket she got her husband to drop her off while he went off to hopefully find a fuel station. She got to the till with quite a large basket of food, packed it into a couple of carrier bags and then, to her total embarrassment realised she had left her purse and card in the car and had no way of paying. She started to apologise to the person on the check-out till, when a man who she'd obviously never seen before in her life, said "Don't worry - I'll deal with your payment" and promptly paid for the contents of my friend's basket. He refused to give her any details as to who he was or any means of paying him what she owed and as he walked off with his own trolley he just said "You can put it down to my good deed for the day" and was gone. As she followed him out of the supermarket she was desperately hoping her husband might be waiting in the car park but not a sign of him. Her gallant gentleman got into his car, gave her a cheery wave and drove off.

As my friend said her faith in humanity, not surprisingly, had been restored.

And it's not only kindness to our fellow human beings that is so important - to end on a very different and very simple note.

I'd just started out on a walk with my dog when I saw her sniffing rather hard at something on the ground. It was, in fact, a coal tit lying with its wings spread-eagled and seemingly unable to fly. I put it in the palm of my hand where it settled down. I could feel its little heart beating - which was a good sign - and even better when it closed its eyes and went off to sleep so, as I didn't want to abandon it on the ground, it came for a walk with us. Every so often it would give a little flutter but had no intention of leaving its new little safe resting place even to the point of digging its little claws into my hand as if to say "I'm very happy here, please let me stay!"

When we got home and I managed to extract its claws - which I have to say, for such a small bird, were quite sharp - I thought I'd try to give it some water off my finger but to no avail so I filled a bowl with leaves and grass and popped it in and kept an eye on it. After about ten minutes it began to flap its wings in the bowl, looked around, and decided it was probably time to move on which it did very successfully by landing on a shrub next to my bird bath.

A few hours later a little collection of blue tits turned up at the bird bath which they do most days and maybe it was my imagination but in amongst them I'm quite sure I saw my

coal tit - they're not that common and are easy to recognise so I very much hope he will become one of the regular visitors to the bath.

To end. Being brought up on a farm in Ayrshire I hope Robert Burns would have understood and approved of the little bird rescue as for the supermarket story he wouldn't have had the faintest idea what I was talking about!

Ann Tarlton

Avening Community Orchard



Apple Pressing Day

27th September 10-1pm at Avening Memorial Hall.

People should bring apples and containers to take home their juice, or just come along and watch.



~ JOHAN OLNER ~

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Puzzle Answers

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

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Matilda, Duchess of Normandy's Diary

2 October 1080

The Archbishop of Canterbury requested an audience with me today, and I could see from the outset that I was in trouble. He made a big fuss about that Saxon Lord Brithric, who, he told me, has just died. Apparently it was all my fault for having him incarcerated in a dungeon and leaving him there to rot, and I should make a penance. All right, I said, I had forgotten all about him, but I've got Normandy and England to rule while William is away on his special military operation, plus our ten children to support, I can't be expected to remember everything.

Anyway, I said, why should I be singled out for one unfortunate death when William is laying waste to half the population of the North of England? That's different, he said, warfare doesn't count. And it just so happens that the Archbishop knows of a village in need of a church. Hold on, I said, we've already paid for two churches to be built, surely that should secure us for a comfortable afterlife? Those churches are in Normandy so they don't count, he said. Honestly!

So I asked the Archbishop to tell me about this village, which is called Avening, situated in Brithric's former lands. Apparently it's an attractive village with a vibrant and thriving community spirit, and the school produces some of the best sheep shearers and weavers in the country. Avening Court deals with what little crime there is, although they have a persistent problem with irresponsible dog owners. Surely you just hang one of the offenders pour l'encourager les autres, that's how we deal with crime in Normandy, it's very effective.

Eventually I reluctantly agreed to pay for their church. I even had to agree to fund a hog roast! Wonderful, said the Archbishop, you will now avoid eternity in Hell as long as you don't kill anyone else. He was confident that the villagers would celebrate my generosity in their many ale houses, and it's quite likely that they will name one after me. Marvellous!

Roger Lindley



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- Children's Laser Tag Parties

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Contact Estelle St John-Smith – 07817 837781 estjs01@rocketmail.com

Avening Parish Council



The Parish Council did not meet in August. The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 2nd September.

Neighbourhood Policing Team: Police Sergeant Garrett Gloyn ; PC Morley - Blackwell; PCSO Edmund Maina 101@gloucestershire.police.uk

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

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Walk (& Talk) for Local Hospice – September 6th



Longfield Community Hospice's popular fundraising walk is back — and this year, the charity is putting talking at the heart of it.

This soul-enriching walk brings people together for fresh air and good conversation. This year, the hospice's counsellors will be walking the journey alongside Longfield supporters and the local community – just as they do with the patients they support through counselling services. "This event is about more than fundraising," said Lena Pabreza, Senior Counselling Manager at Longfield. "It's about community, connection, and showing that people affected by a life-limiting diagnosis or grief are not alone."

The walk starts from Longfield Hospice in Minchinhampton on Saturday 6 September 2025 from 3pm to 7pm. Bring along friends, family and even the dog for a relaxed walk across Minchinhampton and Rodborough Commons: breathtaking panoramic views guaranteed. Afterwards, return to the hospice grounds for live music, food, drink and garden games.

Those who wish to can donate or raise sponsorship on top of the registration fee to support the hospice's free services, which include expert palliative care, wellbeing therapies, bereavement support, and comfort for patients and families across Gloucestershire.

Whether walking in memory of someone special or wanting to support the charity, **everyone is welcome**. Walkers do not need a connection to Longfield to join in. The walk is suitable for all ages and abilities, with a choice of 5 or 10k routes.

Register your place today to walk, talk, and make every step count for Longfield Community Hospice. The registration fee is from £7.50 for adults and £5 for children with additional costs for food. Walkers can sign up at: longfield.org.uk/walk or call the friendly fundraising team on 01453 886868.

PET SERVICE

Sunday 7th September

10am

St Nicholas' Church, Cherington, GL8 8SN

Share in the celebration of our animal friends.

Bring your pet (big or small) to be blessed.

*There will be an opportunity to remember pets we love
who are no longer with us.*



Volunteer with Us – Make a Real Difference

Help us offer **practical support** and a **listening ear** to families with young children when they need it most. Sometimes, a little extra help can make all the difference as they navigate their way through challenging times.

Our next **Volunteer Preparation Course** runs from **Thursday 9th October to 4th December** (term time only).

- Gain valuable skills
- Support local families
- Be someone they can talk to

For more information, please visit: www.homestartsd.org. Or contact:

Enquiries@homestartsd.org



Together, we can help families feel heard, supported, and stronger.

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 :

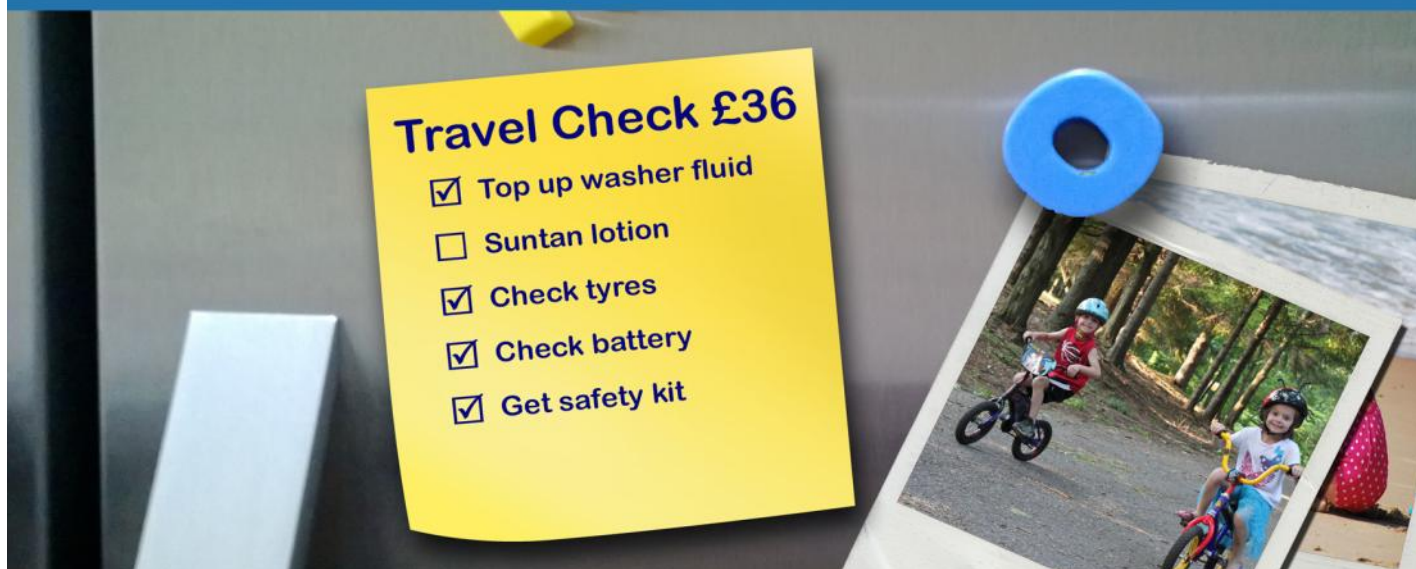
Please telephone Liz on **01453 833803** or e-mail lizknowles@hotmail.co.uk

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
Avening Church bell ringing	Monday	8.00-9.00pm	Church bell tower	Andrew Lelliott 07726 345516
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 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	aveningcinemaclub@gmail.com
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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