

The Villager

A Magazine for Avening, Cherington and Nags Head

August 2012

50p



*Alien Invasion Hits Avening
Church Fete!*

editors@acvillager.co.uk

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Ann Buxton

01453 836342

PCC Treasurer

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01453 835 287

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Flower Team

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01453833175

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01453835090

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Churchwardens

Roger Gegg

01453 834 805

John Bate-Williams

01666 503 544

Sacristan

Beryl Milsom

01285 841 248

PCC Secretary

Elizabeth Workman

01285 841 294

PCC Treasurer

Robert Riddington

Organist

Elizabeth Workman

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Flower Team

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The Villager Magazine

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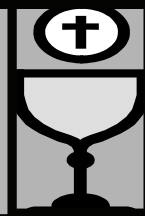
20th of each month

Services in Avening & Cherington

August

Sunday 5th August	08.00	Avening	Holy Communion BCP
	09.30	Cherington	Holy Communion BCW
	11.00	Avening	Holy Communion BCW & Sunday School
Sunday 12th August	8.00am	Avening	NO SERVICE
	09.30	Cherington	Matins BCP
	11.00	Avening	Holy Communion BCW & Sunday School
	2.30	Avening	Baptism: Uma Rosie Mercy Terrett
Sunday 19th August	08.00	Avening	Holy Communion BCP
	09.30	Cherington	Holy Communion BCP
	11.00	Avening	Holy Communion BCW & Sunday School.
Sunday 26th August	08.00	Avening	NO SERVICE
	09.30	Cherington	Holy Communion BCW
	11.00	Avening	Holy Communion BCW & Sunday School
Sunday 2nd September	08.00	Avening	Holy Communion BCP
	09.30	Cherington	Holy Communion BCW
	11.00	Avening	Holy Communion BCW & Sunday School.

Church Duties in Evening



Date	Sides persons	Chalice	Sacristan
August 5 th	Jeanie/ Cas	Paul	Ann
August 12 th ...	Stephanie/Margaret	Stephen	Marion
August 19 th	Piers/Frances	Derrick	Elizabeth
August 26 th	Stephanie/Jeanie	Paul	Ann
Sept 2 nd	Cas/George	Stephen	Marion

**THERE WILL BE COFFEE AFTER THE SERVICE IN EVENING ON
AUGUST 5TH AND SEPT 2ND**

Church Floodlighting

15th July

To celebrate the Ruby wedding anniversary of Nigel and Julie Bowsher



*The Church looks lovely when it is lit up at night.
If you would like to have this in memory of a loved
one, or to celebrate a special event, contact*

**Paul Brown
01453 835 983**

The cost is £5.00 for 2 hours

TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE

Longfords Mill, Minchinhampton

This road will be closed on Sunday 12th August 2012 to allow for tree cutting to free overhead power cables by contractors working on behalf of Western Power Distribution.

If you require any further information regarding this closure please contact the office on 08000 514514.

The Parish Letter

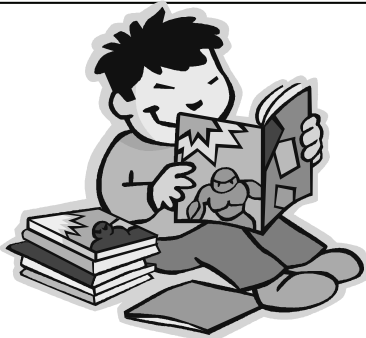
“The most important thing is not to win, but to take part.”.....memories of school sports day.....when some ‘Joyce Grenfell’ character braces you up as you limp past the winning post at last!

As the Olympic buzz reaches its climax this month, we will be reminded of the aims of the athletes as they enter the Stadium, proudly parading behind their National Flag. It may be difficult relate London 2012 to the original games in the city of Olympia over 2000 years ago, but in essence, they are the same. The Hope for peace among the Nations.....the Aim to inspire and enthuse young men and women to give of their best. The Challenge of personal and national achievement while sweeping aside racial, religious and social barriers uniting all people in the pursuit of excellence.

Many more sports have been included in the new version of the Games encouraging even more athletes to take part, but, most imaginative of all is the inclusion of the disabled in the Paralympics. To see what they can achieve is truly an inspiration, not only to others with disabilities, but to us all.

The challenge to overcome in life all that is thrown at us.....and still reach our goal.

Rev Celia



Church of England Educational Fund

Money from The Church of England Educational Fund is available to young people who are under 25 years old and live in the parishes of Avening and Cherington, to help with their education.

If you (or your children) need help from this fund, please apply in writing to the 'Educational Fund,' c/o George Buchanan, 14 High Street, Avening, Glos. GL8 8LU.

Applications should be in during July 2012 and August 2012.

We look forward to hearing from you,

George Buchanan (for the trustees)



What's On In Avening & Cherington

Please let us know if we have forgotten any regular event or if there is something you would like to have included here.

Event	Day	Time	Where	Contact
Line Dancing	Monday	7.30 - 9.00pm	Social Club	
Cherington PC	4th Monday each month	6.30pm	Village Hall	Sue 01666 503370
Youth Club	Tuesday	6.00 - 8.00pm	Memorial Hall	Cassie 01453 834182
Scottish Country Dancing	Back in the Autumn	8.00 - 10.00pm	Social Club	Derrick 01453 835090
WI	2nd Thursday each month	7-30pm	Memorial Hall	Maisie 01453 834679
Avening PC	3rd Thursday each month	7.30pm	Memorial Hall	Julie 01453 751823
Folk Club	Thursday	8.15pm	Cross Inn	Chris 01453 450010
Mobile Library	Every other Friday	12.30 - 12.50pm	Cherington Green	
Entertainment	1st Saturday each month	8.00pm	Social Club	Derek 01453 835752
Quiz Nights	1st /3rd Saturday each month	7.30pm	Cross Inn	
Almost Angels Choir	Back in the Autumn	12.15pm	Holy Cross Church	Derrick 01453 835090

Photographs in The Villager Magazine

Many thanks to **Tony Slater** for this month's cover photo.

If you have a photo of Avening or Cherington which you would like to share with us, please feel free to send it to us. You never know, it might turn up on the front cover...!

editors@acvillager.co.uk

Village People

JULIA AND STUART WALKLEY



As Dominic and I sat in Church on Fete Sunday, enjoying our posh Matilda's Tea, it suddenly struck me that I need look no further for inspiration for my next project for this month's Villager. What could be more obvious than an item about two of our best known 'non-village' Village People, Julia and

Stuart Walkley, who each have contributed so much to Avening over many years? I suggested this to Julia, who in typically modest fashion, registered surprise that she and Stuart could be seen in this way and further pointed out that, of course, they are not strictly Village, since they live just outside Stroud. I brushed this aside and opted for honorary Village status. I was delighted when Julia allowed herself to be persuaded and I went to talk to her recently in the delightful converted Old School House, built in 1837, where the family have lived for the past twenty-six years. Stuart was away on business in India when I called, but Julia was able to fill me in on some of the details of their interesting lives.

They originally moved to the area, when their elder son, Matt, was two. Their younger son, Nicholas, was born after they moved. They had been living in Hampshire, but wanted to relocate to a more accessible area within reach of Julia's mother, who lived in Swindon and Stuart's family, based in Tewkesbury. It was something of a coincidence that the house, which they eventually bought, is situated off Kitesnest Hill and unknown to Julia, her mother had been evacuated, as a small child in the War, to Kitesnest, Whiteshill. Some work had already been done to the Old School House, when they moved in, but gradually over the years they have continued to enhance and improve it. One of the more challenging jobs appears to have been the transformation of the old playground into a pretty garden. Once the tarmac had been dug up, the problem of the transport of the huge amount of soil, needed to create a garden, was pretty daunting. The bulk of it was moved wheelbarrow by wheelbarrow through the relatively small entrance gate by Stuart and Julia themselves. The family were happily installed in their new home and for a time, until she died, Julia's mother lived in a granny annexe upstairs. This gave her the joy of being a real part of her grandchildren's everyday lives and they have equally happy memories of this time.

I was fascinated to learn that the very special skills, that both Julia and Stuart have used in the village are, in both cases, 'only hobbies' in which they are

Avening Roll of Honour

No. 50

Kenneth Thomas Robbins

Sergeant: Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

Ken volunteered for RAF service in Oxford in October 1942 but because of his age, he was not immediately taken into the service. During early 1943 he was called to Lords Cricket Ground where he was interviewed to assess his acceptability. Having been accepted, he and his fellow volunteers were sent to an Aircrew Receiving Centre, where, for the first two weeks after arrival, they were medically examined, kitted out and generally prepared for service life. During their third week they sat their aptitude tests. These measured such things as their quickness-to-learn, accuracy and speed with which they could observe things and their capacity to learn to perform eye-hand-foot co-ordination. The tests were numerous, and though not difficult, were subject to strict time limits. After these were completed, the recruits continued their general service training and then they were told in which aircrew category they had been placed. There was no alternative. Ken was to be an Air Gunner.

Ken's next posting was to an Initial Training Wing where they began specialised training as Gunners and, after completion there, he received seven days leave, with pay, and a free travel warrant.

On return, Ken's next unit was the Air Gunnery School, and, having completed that course, he became an Air Gunner, was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and given his "Gunners Wing."

His next move was to an Operation Training Unit. The first task there was to form crews. Likened to a traditional Mop Fair, men of all categories would circulate, identifying the category by their "wing", until they had formed their teams of seven – Pilot, Flight Engineer, Navigator, Bomb Aimer, Wireless Operator and two Gunners. Here, Ken found himself with an Australian pilot, and a Canadian Bomb Aimer, the rest of the crew being British. He himself was a rear-gunner, or "tail-end-charlie"

The crew spent several weeks familiarising themselves with flying as a group, before being posted to a Heavy Conversion Unit where they learnt their craft in large bomber aircraft.

Air Gunners Wings



During this period, they may well have done a couple of Operational Sorties – softer targets like mine-laying ("Gardening") or Leaflet Dropping over France.

Once they were considered ready for Operations, probably another six weeks later, they were posted to

RAF East Kirkby, in Lincolnshire, some 15 miles east of Skegness.

Here they joined 57 Squadron, made up of around 14 Lancaster bombers. Initially they would have completed a couple of training flights before being thrown into the fray on taking the fight to Germany.



A Lancaster Bomber

Nothing is currently known as to how many sorties Ken's crew completed but, on the night of Wednesday the 21st of June, 1944, the squadron set off for Wesselling, on the River Rhine, between Bonn and Cologne. Wesselling was

targeted as it had an important synthetic fuel manufacturing plant. On the morning of that day, the men would have known that they were "on ops" that night and would have air-tested their aircraft in the early afternoon. Briefings would have followed and by 1900 hours they would have been ready. The 14 aircraft took off later that evening with Ken's aircraft (Lancaster III LM573 DX-U) taking off at 23.10 hours.

Rear gun turret of a Lancaster Bomber



Timings are vague but it is known that at some time whilst over Holland, the aircraft caught fire (either from anti-aircraft fire or German night-fighter action) and crashed some 40 miles south-east of Rotterdam. The aircraft apparently exploded and the Australian pilot was thrown clear and became a Prisoner of War. Ken and the

remainder of his crew died in the crash and were buried near s'Hertogenbosch, but after the war, were re-interred at the Military Cemetery in Bergen op Zoom.

It was later learnt that Wesselling's fuel plant production was reduced by 40% following the raid. Ken's aircraft was one of six of 57 Squadron's losses that night and Bomber Command lost a total of 38 aircraft on that single raid.

Ken was 19 when he died, he was unmarried and we know he was the son of Charles Henry Robbins and his wife Matilda. Ken had a brother, Dennis. We know that Matilda lived on Pound Hill at the time of her death in 1941 and is buried in our churchyard.

Ken was educated in the village school and later at Sir William Romney's School, Tetbury. Here he is remembered with honour on their School Memorial.

We have been unable to locate any relatives.

Fred Vening

New Sign for Cherington Church



It was John Bate Williams who first thought we ought to have a sign up in the churchyard advising passers-by of times of Church Services. Years passed and other more pressing needs of the church had to be addressed. Then Jennifer Grant-Rennick took up the ball and ran with it, offering to pay for a suitable board in memory of her husband.

Richard Grant-Rennick came to Cherington in 1979 when he married Jennifer and went to live in The Old Rectory. He loved the village and used to vow that he never wanted to live anywhere else. He also loved the church and the vicar and was a regular worshiper. He died in September 2004 and is buried in the churchyard.

Peter and Liz Workman got the board made with the help of 18 hours of gilding by Roger Newton, who restores furniture in one of The Rev. Celia's workshops .

This sign therefore is a joint effort so typical of how things are done in Cherington - inspired by the memory of Richard who was always so encouraging towards any kind of village endeavour and who would have been very proud of this one.

MANY CONGRATULATIONS TO JORDAN CROSTHWAITE

The start of the new academic year will be a particularly momentous time for Jordan Crosthwaite, aged 13, as he joins Wycliffe College in Year 9 to take up the sports scholarship and bursary, which he was recently awarded, for his promise on the rugby field. His family have been further excited to learn earlier in the week that Jordan has also been selected for the under 14 Gloucestershire Elite Training Squad.

When I met Jordan and his parents, Glyn and Claire, at The Cross recently they told me that it was thanks to his coaches, Richard Hartson and Nick Radcliffe of the Minchinhampton Rugby Club, that the wonderful opportunity to join Wycliffe College had been offered to him. It was they who had alerted Wycliffe to Jordan's talents. Previously he had played for Forest Green in the football squads for the under 8s, 9s and 10s, before realising that rugby is his game of choice.



When I asked Jordan what position he played he told me that he is happy playing either Prop, Tight Head, Loose Head or No 8. It would appear that, with so much to offer, he is indeed a valuable member of any team!

It is particularly good to be able to report that the Church Educational Fund (of Avening) has been able to help Jordan realise his dream of joining Wycliffe, by offering a grant to help with the purchase of uniform and assist with travelling costs.

I am sure that Avening is proud of Jordan's success to date and like me hopes to hear much more of him in the future.

Frances Conway

Gas Leak Reporting

There have been reports of gas leaks particularly from the Tetbury Hill area. Should you detect the smell of gas at any time anywhere in the village please contact this emergency telephone number:

0800111999

giving the location of the suspected leak.

Avening Parish Council

A Parish Away Weekend

March 15-17 2013 we are planning a weekend away with Rev. Celia Carter before she retires on Easter Day. This will be at the beautiful Lee Abbey Christian conference centre in Devon. (www.leeabbey.org.uk) This was a very 'posh' hotel in the 20's and is set in its own bay amid stunning scenery. Food is yummy and the young people, who are part of the community that care for us, are delightful and from all over the world.



There is a programme but this is optional. Walking and other outdoor and indoor activities are many and varied. It's a fabulous place for children and teenagers who have their own programme of fun things to do.

These 'Renew, Refresh and Resource' weekends are designed to help groups, Individuals, churches to strengthen their relationships with

each other, to deepen their relationship with God and to learn how to be salt and light more effectively in their local communities and places of work.

The cost (full board for 2 nights) is £136. If you would like to come but feel it's beyond your budget please let me know as we may be able to help with funding. This will be done in strictest confidence.

If you want to book a place please contact me for a booking form:

Cas Boddam-Whetham. E-mail: casbw@btinternet.com

Telephone no: 01453 834834

Cas Boddam-Whetham. MCSP RCT
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Avening Primary School

CELEBRATING THE END OF TERM AND LOOKING FORWARD TO A NEW SCHOOL YEAR



The end of our summer term jam-packed with celebrations and events as normal, but this year it was slightly more poignant as we said farewell, not only to our oldest pupils, but also to our head teacher Diana Boulton.

An informal tea party was held to mark her retirement - an upbeat opportunity to thank Diana for her decade in charge of our wonderful school. The event, organised by the staff and the Friends of Avening School (FOAS), was attended by hundreds of children, parents, governors and friends. It included mountains of cakes, bottomless pots of tea and coffee, face painting, cupcake making and had a real party atmosphere.

Andrea Glover of FOAS presented Diana with a tree painting (created by Pip Morrison) which included fingerprint 'leaves' from all of the current pupils and a space for Diana to add her own print. Diana gave the school an apple tree to plant in the school garden and Chair of Governors, Derrick Ind, gave a speech of thanks and presented Diana with the gift from all the children and parents (£500 worth of vouchers which she plans to spend on a trip for her and her husband Ian). The Governors gave her a painting of the school garden by local artist, Mick Williamson.

As well as saying farewell to Diana, we also said goodbye and good luck to all our Year 6 pupils – Hamish, Chana, Ruby, Olivia, Lily, Lucy, Chris, Martha, Katy, Eloise, Holly T, Gesney, Joe, Holly V, George and Megan.

In September we have much to look forward to as usual with a new school year. We will welcome our new headteacher, Jane Rushton who moves from St Mary's School in Tetbury where she was deputy headteacher, and we will also welcome 15 new pupils into our Reception Class.

Renovating the Church Clock



Intrepid local tree climber and church tower abseiler, Piers Hansen, and colleague from Hansen Tree Care, in the process of painstakingly re-painting and restoring the wooden face of the Avening Church clock

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with 'Made in Avening' gift card



AVENING CHURCH FETE 2012



Early in October 2011, a small group gathered together and excitedly talked about sumo wrestling, new ideas, an Olympic theme, and set a date. No, not an Olympic committee - the Avening church fete committee!

Planning started early. Some new ideas developed but part of the success of a good fete is the traditional stalls that attract a crowd every year. Excitement grew when Rev Celia confirmed Nathaniel Parker would be coming. After months of planning, weeks of watching the weather forecast, Avening Fete weekend was upon us. Peter Philips kindly agreed to officially open the Art Show, and this was followed by a very successful supper. Saturday was drier and the gazebos went up, and all looked well for a dry and sunny Sunday; hopes were dashed when the rain started to fall and the wind lifted the gazebos off the ground just hours before the fete was due to open. But the wind dropped, gazebos were roped in place and the crowds started to arrive. By 2 pm the village was buzzing, the flag pole was officially welcomed to the village and the fete was underway. Four hours later, calm began to return to the village, stalls were sold out, dogs taken home exhausted but happy, hundreds of cups of tea had been sold, and we raised over £6,500!

Huge thanks go to many people but I must particularly thank Nathaniel Parker, who not only spent all afternoon at the fete, meeting stall holders and visitors, but went home to collect his dog, to enter into the dog show! The ducks were triumphant, racing all afternoon, over £1000 of raffle tickets were sold, and special thanks to Anthea and Peter for hosting the dog show on the Old Rectory Lawn. What a great fete, thanks to everyone who came and generously helped us to make a record profit.

No doubt that small gathering will happen again in October, and plans will start for the fete in 2013. If you would like to get involved, or have any new ideas, please come forward and join in the fun!

Julia Walkley
Chair, Avening Fete Committee 2012

Avening Fete 2012

Many thanks to Alison Winkfield, Henry Arden and Tony Slater for these great photos



Another Outstanding Success!



Dear Villager,



On July 6th, my Mother, Annette Driver, and I, Melissa Madden, made a visit to the village of Avening.

We were graciously greeted by Fred Vening at the Avening Church. The purpose of our visit was to see the “Driver” memorials in the church. We were more than pleasantly surprised to have seen so much more. Our “Driver” ancestors came from the village of Avening and the Aston Farms area. Fred was so

gracious to take us to Aston Farms so that we could see the property our ancestors came from.

Mr. and Mrs. Richards were also so kind as to allow us to visit them and share some stories of previous owners to their property. It is possible the “Drivers” could have lived there too.

We have fond memories of Avening and would like to comment on a few. We would like to mention the three young ladies that made us laugh on our way to Aston Farms. They had apparently just finished running up the steep incline and had collapsed in the middle of the green. I couldn’t help but laugh as I am a runner too and that hill looked like a killer.

Also, the sweet older lady that took pity on us when we were trying to find the village store must be noted. Thank you personally for carrying us up the hill to the store in your personal car. We should also thank the village store owner for allowing us to wait in her pub for our driver to come get us.

Thank you to Captain Mark Phillips as well, for letting us come onto your property and take a few photos. You will never know how much that meant to my Mother.

Thank you to Celia and Margaret for greeting us so warmly at church services and for connecting me with other “Drivers” that are researching the same family.

Oh and there is one last person, I must mention, although I do not know his name. I’m sure everyone in the Village knows him. This individual is the kind gentleman that allowed us to eat his tomato basil soup while visiting on July 6th. We know it was a little too early for lunch but he was very welcoming and gracious to accommodate us.

Avening England is a wonderful place and I will cherish the memories we made while there. It’s no wonder my ancestors lived there. It’s one of the most beautiful places on earth.

Melissa Madden, Gilmer, Texas, USA

Congratulations

to the family and friends of

Isla Elizabeth Phillips

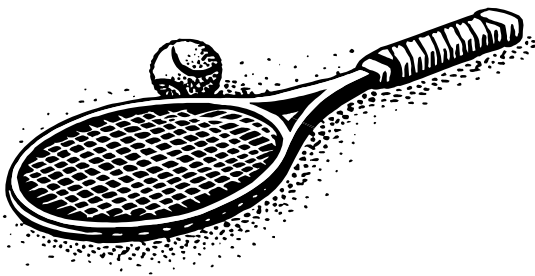
who was christened in Cherington Church
on Saturday 30th June



And congratulations as well to eagle-eyed Avening photographer, Tony Slater, who was busy tending his mother's grave in the churchyard when the royal party emerged from the church



Tennis at Avening Park



If you live in Avening, Nag's Head or Cherington, you are eligible to play tennis in the beautiful surrounds of Avening Park.

For a £30 annual family subscription, you can play tennis throughout the year.

For further details, contact Roger Lindley:

48 High Street, Avening
Tel. 01453 835115
Email. RBLindley@aol.com

Interested in Family History? Looking for your Avening ancestors?

Join us at our Family History Day

Saturday 8th September in Avening Church, 10am – 4pm

An opportunity to meet our archivist and consult our records, including:

- Baptisms & Marriages – fully transcribed and indexed from 1700-1899
 - Burials – fully transcribed and indexed from 1700-1949
 - Avening census records 1841-1911
 - Churchyard map

Display of old pictures of the village and villagers

And more

Website: www.aveningchurch.info

Dying without a Will. Now that's a real tragedy.

No-one likes the thought of dying, so it's hardly surprising that almost 3 out of 5 UK adults don't have a valid Will (*source: www.unbiased.co.uk 2010*). Yet having one is one of the most important arrangements you can make during your lifetime.

My name is David Martin. I live in Nailsworth and I'm the local consultant for *Steele Rose & Co* - one of the UK's Premier Professional Home Visit Will Writers. After 22 years serving my country in the RAF, I have spent the last 28 years of my life professionally advising my clients on all personal financial matters and specialising in Wills.

Writing a Will is easier and cheaper than you think. It also ensures that your wishes are carried out simply and efficiently - causing the minimum of anguish for those you leave behind. If you would like to discuss your Will arrangements, redraft an existing Will, Lasting Powers of Attorney, or other associated legal services, at a mutually convenient time in the comfort and privacy of your own home, please contact me:



David Martin

David Martin, local consultant,
Steele Rose & Co

(Nailsworth & surrounding areas)

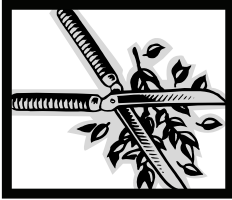
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Grants are now available for **loft and cavity wall insulation!** If your loft has no insulation or it hasn't been topped up in several years, Gloucestershire Warm and Well may be able to top it up **for free.**

If you have cavity walls these can also be insulated for free using a grant. You no longer need to be on a qualifying benefit or over 70 to get the work done for free!

If you have **solid walls**, there are also grants available for internal and external wall insulation. The level of grant funding is dependent on your circumstances, the size of the property and the main source of heating within the home. There are currently **grants up to £14,995** so there has never been a better time to take advantage of the offer.

The Energy Saving Trust estimates a yearly saving of around £175 after loft insulation is installed and up to £135 after cavity wall insulation is installed (based on 3 bed semi-detached house). The grants will not be available indefinitely so please act now to arrange a free no obligation survey.

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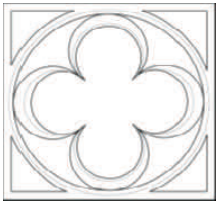
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* The scheme is open to privately rented and owned properties only and is subject to survey and available funding.



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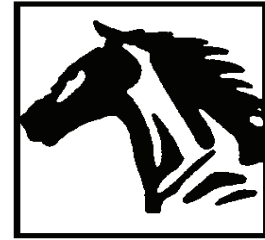
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This month's speaker at our meeting was Brian Partridge who was for many years a linesman and umpire at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships. He wore his very smart full uniform. He told us how he came to be asked to be an official at Wimbledon after many dedicated years touring around the country officiating at smaller events. He gave us a very interesting account and stories of some of the tennis celebrities.

At the end of June we provided afternoon tea for 42 folk from Cheltenham. We are always praised for all the home made goodies provided on these occasions. We are booked for another tea in August.

Unfortunately we did not win through to the next round of the County Skittles Tournament, losing by a whisker to Cirencester North. It was however a friendly and fun evening and we wish them luck in the next round.

Our August outing should be interesting as we are having a guided tour around the sunken hulks near Sharpness, followed by a meal at a local pub.

We now have a date for our Christmas shopping trip to Winchester. It will be on Thursday 22nd November. These coach outings are extremely good value so make a note in your diary and if you would like to come please contact me on 01453 836 556. As usual everyone welcome.

Gwyneth Simpson

Avening Summer Olympics!

**Saturday 11th August – Sunday
12th August**

**Skittles, Darts and
Pool**

**The Cross Inn
Cash Prize**

Teams of 2

Entry by 8th August



Down Memory Lane



Who are these ladies standing on the steps of the Memorial Hall? Does anyone recognise any of them? When was the photo taken and why had they gathered - and in such stout serviceable shoes, too! Let us know if you can shed any light.

Email editors@acvillager.co.uk, or phone 01453 836229 if you have any answers - our village historian, Fred Venning, would love to know



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Avening Book Club

We met on Mon 2nd July and welcomed a new member. There are now six of us and another interested reader rang to say she would be joining us next time. This is quite a nice number for a book group because it means quieter voices can get heard and everyone gets time to talk. Saying that however, we welcome new members and if the group did get too big we would simply split the discussion into manageable numbers. We won't be having a meeting in August as it was too difficult to co-ordinate with so many people taking holidays in that month. The next meeting will be on the 4th of September and the book will be ***Little Stranger*** by Sarah Waters. Please come with suggestions for October's meeting.

July's Book - Annabel by Kathleen Winter

Annabel starts off in 1968 in the sparsely populated, stark and remote, coastal town of Labrador in Canada. The setting of this novel is central to the story because if the protagonist has been born elsewhere it would have been a very different story. A couple have a baby that is born with both female and male genitalia. The term I had been using was "hermaphrodite" although on reading around the subject this terminology is deemed outdated and the term more favoured is "intersex". Only three adults know about the baby and a decision is made by the father, Treadway, to have 'corrective' surgery enabling the child to become a boy. This decision is to the sorrow of the mother, Jacinta who wishes the world were big enough to embrace and accept her child just the way it is. The father's decision however is the wrong one and he has to come to terms with this. He is a taciturn man who is a practical and solid provider. Although the reader starts off with very little sympathy for Treadway, he does ultimately redeem himself. The novel concerns itself with humanity on many different levels and with many of the characters. The protagonist, Wayne/Annabel is left to embark on a journey of confusion. Although very haunting and at times terribly sad, the novel does have a satisfying resolution. Thomasina is the third adult who knows about Wayne/Annabel. Thomasina is in many ways the saviour of the emerging Annabel.

This is a poignant novel that doesn't veer into sentimentality and the subject matter is treated quietly and with great delicacy and sensitivity. The style of writing is something that the reader has to adjust to. The narrative voice isn't intimate and we find ourselves at a distance from the story until we get used to the style. The group was very taken with this novel and thought it was beautifully written and very impressive for a first novel. Some criticisms were that the beginning of the novel was meandering and the descriptions of the landscape were too long and too frequent.

Kristiana Maseyk

Children's Nearly New Sale

Clothes, shoes, toys and equipment

Saturday 15th September
10-30 to 12-30

Avening Village Hall



Sell Your Unwanted Items £££

(70% vendor, 30% contribution to Avening Playgroup)

For more information on selling please call

Rachel 07786 061066



Avening Playgroup

Playgroup will start their new year on September 5th
For details and further information please contact
Mrs Debbie Brown telephone 01453865983



The Royal Air Force Bomber Command Memorial

You will have read the article on Ken Robbins in this magazine, which will be the 50th entry in our Roll of Honour.

He died in 1944 serving with 57 Squadron of Bomber Command.

The Memorial was dedicated by Her Majesty the Queen on the 28th of June 2012 and it seemed fitting that Ken Robbins should be mentioned in this month's Villager.

The Memorial is situated in Green Park at the far end of Piccadilly, away from the Circus and close to Hyde Park Corner. It is well worth a visit.

It commemorates 55, 573 airmen who died fighting with Bomber Command during WW2.

I happened to be in London earlier this month and took the opportunity of laying a wreath to Ken Robbins whilst at the Memorial.

As a country, it is shame that it has taken us so long to commemorate these men and we should now seek to recognise them with a campaign medal.



Fred Vening



Preserve
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Avening Parish Council

Planning Decisions – August 2012

Application: 12/01483/FUL
Ward: Avening
Date decided: 17 July 2012
Decision: Application Permit
Location: Herons Mead, West End, Avening, Tetbury,
Gloucestershire, GL8 8NE

Plans can be seen on www.cotswold.gov.uk. Go to weekly planning list. You are also able to sign up for Planning Alerts so that the emails can come straight to your in box.

Gas Smell on the B4104 between Avening and Tetbury Upton

Many people have noticed the gas smell in this area. If you are at all concerned about this, Wales and West Utilities emergency gas number is 0800 111999 or for general enquiries please call 0870 165 0597. It is useful to locate the part of the road where the gas smell is strongest, or if it is near a property, the postcode. This enables the engineers to locate the exact spot where the smell is worst or where it is causing concern. If you have a SAT NAV, a grid reference would be useful.

Bus Service to Neighbouring Towns

At the Annual Parish Meeting we heard about the Tetbury Dolphin bus service which has been set up by Cotswold Council for Voluntary Service Trading (CCVS), along with Gloucestershire County Council, to ensure people in the towns and villages around Tetbury have the transport links they need.

The service incorporates the old number 27 service between Tetbury, Didmarton and Old Sodbury, as well as the 278 service between Tetbury and Malmesbury.

The service runs within four zones around Tetbury and the surrounding area, travelling to villages and towns such as Malmesbury, Nailsworth, Kemble and Old Sodbury, with a number of designated pick-up areas.

CCVS transport manager Bryan Griffiths, who played a key role in setting up the service, said it had been planned in reaction to a number of Gloucestershire County Council's cuts to rural bus services.

"A lot of people in Tetbury and the surrounding villages find it difficult to get to the doctors surgeries, the hospital or to Tesco to go shopping," he said. "Some people find it complicated but it really isn't – all you have to do is look at the timetable, and if it's in your area give us a call and we will arrange for the bus to come and pick you up, "There are pick up points but, for people with impaired mobility, we will get you right from your home."

Dog Mess at the Recreation Ground

Did you know that the whole of the Cotswolds is covered by a dog control order which obliges people to pick up after their dogs? They can face fines if they don't. This issue continues to divide opinion. There have been calls this week to make the whole of the recreation ground a no dog area, whilst others think this is a step too far. Others think we should fence off the play area. The Parish Council is minded to have a meeting to try to achieve consensus on this issue in the Autumn. The Council has a busy time ahead but will keep you informed.

The next meeting of Avening Parish Council will be held on Thursday, 20th September 2012 and then Thursday, 18th October 2012, at 7.30pm, in the Memorial Hall. Parish Council meetings are usually held on the third Thursday of the month. All Welcome. Please note the PO Box has closed. The Parish Council address is below.

Julie Wickham, Parish Clerk,
c/o 28 Partridge Way, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 1BQ
Tel: 01453 751 823
Email: parishclerk@avening-pc.gov.uk

Deborah Cook will be returning from maternity leave at the beginning of October and can be reached on (01285) 656139 from 1st October. I have very much enjoyed working with you all over the past year and wish you all the very best. Avening really is an active vibrant village with plenty to keep a Clerk busy!

Julie Wickham



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Fridays 9.30am-7pm.

Saturdays 9.30am-1pm.



Useful Telephone Numbers

Avening Parish Council Clerk	Julie Wickham	01453 751823
Cherington Parish Council	Sue Russell	01666 503370
Cotswold District Councillor	Jim Parsons	01453 836596
Avening Sunday School	Debbie Brown	01453 835983
Avening Tower Captain	David Govier	01453 882914
Avening Primary School	Diana Boulton	01453 833191
Avening Playgroup	Debbie Brown	01453 832695 Home 835983
Avening Village Agent	Aileen Bendall	07810-630156
Avening Youth Club	Cassie Chesterman	01453 834182
A & C Cricket Club	Derrick Ind	01453 835752
Over 60s Lunch Club	Christine Howell	01453 833246
Avening Silver Band	Jim Hill	01453 834438
Friends of Avening School	Jo Missenden	01453 833688
Cherington Village Hall	Beryl Milsom	01285 841248
Avening Memorial Hall		07583 073604
Tennis @ Avening Park	Roger Lindley	01453 835115
Avening Group Oil Coordinator	Frances Lindley	01453 835115
Tetbury Hospital		01666 502336
Avening History Project	Fred Vening fred@fvening.fsnet.co.uk	01285 850624
Stroud Hospital		01453 562200
Women's Institute	Maisie Stanton	01453 834679
The Cross Village Shop	Claire and Glyn	01453833240

Dates for your Diary

Sunday 12th August	Road closure	Longfords Mill, Avening Road	All day
Saturday 11th & Sunday 12th August	Avening Summer Olympics	The Cross Inn	tba
Wednesday 5th September	Autumn Term Starts	Avening Play Group and Primary School	
Tuesday 4th September	Avening Book Group	The Bell	7.30pm
Saturday 8th September	Family History Day	Avening Church	10.00am - 4.00pm
Saturday 15th September	Play group nearly new sale	Memorial Hall	10-30 to 12-30
Monday 22nd October - Monday 29th October (incl)	Half Term	Avening Primary School	
Thursday 22nd November	WI Christmas Shopping trip to Winchester	tba	tba

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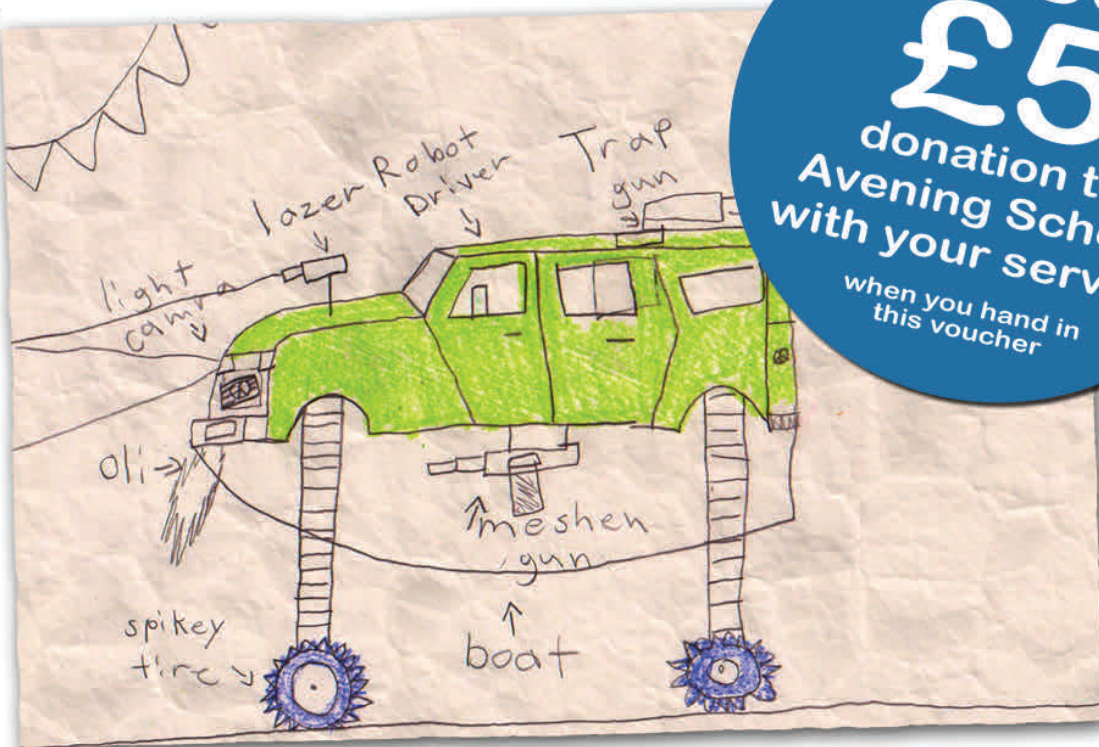
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CROSS INN

4th August : Music Quiz

11th August : The Cross Summer Olympics

18th August : General Knowledge Quiz

25th August : Bank Holiday Celebration

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