

The Villager

A Magazine for Avening,
Cherington and Nags Head



August 2021

editors@villagemag.online



OPEN

Mon - Thur: 11am - 11pm
Fri - Sat: 11am - 11.30pm
Sunday: 12pm - 11pm

LUNCH

Mon - Sat: 12pm - 2.30pm
Sunday: 12pm - 5pm

WORKERS' POT

Mon - Fri: 5pm - 6.30pm

DINNER

Mon - Sat: 6.30pm - 9.30pm

**DOG
FRIENDLY!**



THE ROYAL OAK TETBURY

Walkers, cyclists, explorers - welcome to The Royal Oak in Tetbury, an 18th century inn with a classic saloon bar, courtyard, gardens and stylish lodgings. Upcycled furnishings, cosy booths, a deco piano and a dining room in the rafters offer dining as well as private dining for gatherings and celebrations.

Cask Marque excellence is awarded for the great selection of guest ales including Stroud brewery. The seasonal menus showcase organic meat from local farms, sustainably sourced fish specials and with monthly Meat Free Monday events and a standalone vegan menu the choice is excellent for all.

With **six lovely en suite rooms** including the sensational Oak Lodge, and three dog-friendly rooms, The Royal Oak is a fun and relaxed getaway from which to browse the chic boutiques of Tetbury or explore the beautiful Cotswolds.

1 CIRENCESTER RD. TETBURY GL8 8EY
01666 500021 | THEROYALOAKTETBURY.CO.UK

August 2021.

Well, the summer really did arrive in a big way didn't it? We basked in a truly remarkable ten days or so of unbelievable heat. Now, we find ourselves cooling off in violent downpours, with a sprinkling of thunder and lightning thrown into the mix. For most of us in this area, this is rather welcome for the gardens, but for others, sadly, it has brought flooding. It seems that the weather is very 'local'. We hope that, when the weekends of the Fete and Cherington Show come, we shall be once again blessed by the best of our British summer sunshine.

One piece of really good news for Avening has been that the target amount needed for the Zip Wire project was reached and as we write it is being installed in the playing field for our young people to enjoy. Well done to everyone who worked so hard to make this happen.

Readers will be sorry to read of the retirement of the Mobile Post Office staff, Carole and Eric, whose presence in the village on a Tuesday morning has been so appreciated by many of us. The siting of the van just outside the Social Club during the time when the Community Café is open has meant that many more people have made use of this valued amenity. Carole and Eric will be sadly missed, but we welcome Debbie, who has taken over in their place.

Those of you who have been lucky enough to organise a summer holiday this year, we wish you a happy break and look forward to welcoming you back in September.

The Villager Editors

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 to **Tony Slater** for the photo of harvesting on the front cover of this month's Villager.

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

editors@villagemag.online

Cherington Show Update



As the lockdown lifts, confidence grows that we really will have our Cherington Show this year, albeit on the slightly later date of Sunday 19 September. Excitement is building and we are making plans and a few tweaks to suit the new time of year.

Anyone keen to start sowing (or indeed sewing!) ahead of our popular competitions might want to include kale, chard, leeks and sweetcorn this year... Lance Vick, who was chairman of the Tetbury Show for 40 years, and has many years' experience of growing vegetables and flowers, has kindly agreed to judge our Horticulture once again.

The show will once again be preceded by our popular BBQ and all the usual stalls and games will be in place along with one or two new additions including children's toys, books and games.

Anyone wanting more information on the show or its competitions please email cheringtonshow@gmail.com



Regular Activities in the Villages

Items struck through are temporarily suspended.

Would organisers please let us know when they restart.

Event	Day	Time	Where	Contact
Line Dancing	Monday	7.30– 9.30pm	Social Club	Social Club 01453 833760
Community Café	Tuesday	10.00 - 11.30am	Social Club	Gill Adams 07826 291759
Churchyard tidy up	Tuesday	6.00– 7.00pm	Holy Cross churchyard	Rev. Gerald 01453 883456
Mobile Post Office	Tuesday	10.30am - 12.30pm	Social Club car park	
Cherington PC	Tuesday bi-monthly	6.00pm	Zoom	Richard Smith
Bell Ringing	Tuesday	7.30– 9.00pm	Church Bell Tower	Andrew 01453 835783
Line Dancing	Tuesday	8.00– 10.00pm	Social Club	Social Club 01453 833760
Avening Youth Club	Every Tuesday in term time	6.00– 7.30pm	Avening church	Rev. Gerald 01453 883456
Over 60s Lunch Club	1st Wednesday each month	12.30pm	Social Club	Christine 01453 833246
Avening Cinema Club	1st Thursday each month	7.30pm	Memorial Hall	Katy 07806 614753
Avening W.I.	2nd Thursday each month	7.30pm	Memorial Hall	Liz 01453 833803
Avening PC	3rd Wednesday each month	7.30pm	Zoom	Shani Baker 07415 039234
Summer Skittles	Friday	8.00pm	Social club	Derrick Ind 01453 835752
Charity Quiz	1st Saturday each month	8.00pm	The Bell	
Avening Angels Choir	Sunday	4.30pm	Avening Church	Derrick Pierce 01453 835090

Contacts for the Villages

Avening and Cherington Priest	Revd. Gerald South	01453 883456
Avening & Cherington Churches Reader	Derrick Pierce	01453 835090
Avening & Cherington Cricket Club	Derrick Ind	01453 835752
Avening Angels	Derrick Pierce	01453 835090
Avening Baby & Toddler group	Katy Upton	07806 614753
Avening Bell Tower Captain	Andrew Lelliott	01453 835783
Avening Church Churchwardens	Elizabeth Buchanan Elizabeth Fuller	01453 833016 01453 835067
Avening Church Flower Team	Doreen Pierce	01453 835090
Avening Church Organist	Colin Chambers	01666 880026
Avening Church PCC Treasurer	Nicholas Winkfield	07885 139275
Avening Cinema Club	Katy Upton	07806 614753
Avening Community Café	Gill Adams	07826 291759
Avening Community Orchard	Phoebe Carter	pklc1@hotmail.com
Avening History Project	Jean Chatelain	01453 834713
Avening Memorial Hall		07583 073604
Avening Oil Coordinator	Frances Lindley	01453 835115
Avening Parish Council Clerk	Shani Baker	07415 039234
Avening Playgroup	Angie Heslop	01453 832695
Avening Primary School	Jane Rushton	01453 833191
Avening Silver Band	Jim Hill	01453 834438
Avening Social Club	Derrick Ind	01453 835752

Avening Youth Club	Revd. Gerald South The Door	01453 883456 01453 756745
Cherington Village Hall	Camilla Trotter	07545 054160
Cherington Parish Council Clerk	Richard Smith	Cheringtonparishcouncil @yahoo.co.uk
Cherington Church Churchwardens	Helen Di Mauro Claudia Unger	07796 937268 07867 350122
Cherington Church Flower Team	Elizabeth Workman	01285 841294
Cherington Church Organist	Elizabeth Workman	01285 841294
Cherington Church PCC Sec- retary	Elizabeth Workman	01285 841294
Cherington Church PCC Treas- urer	Paul Cable	cabes50@yahoo.co.uk
Community Café Crop Swap	Chandy Rodgers	Chandra.rodgers65@ gmail.com 07734 971211
Cotswold District Councillor	Richard Morgan	
Friends of Avening School	Nicky Dill	01453 833191
Over 60s Lunch Club	Christine Howell	01453 833246
South Cotswold Community Well- being Agent		01452 528491
Stroud Hospital	Reception	0300 421 8080
Tetbury Hospital		01666 502336
Women's Institute	Liz Knowles	01453 833803

VILLAGE & AREA WEB SITES

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

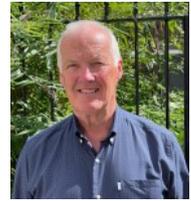
Avening Church: www.aveningchurch.info

Cherington Parish Council: cheringtonpc.org.uk.

Cherington Village: www.cheringtonvillage.co.uk

Cotswold District Council: www.cotswold.gov.uk

Letter From Avening Parish Council Leader



The sun is shining, lockdown is easing and an air of optimism is surfacing; albeit tempered with caution and slight uncertainty.

After what seemed a period of inactivity fuelled by lockdown with all its implications for availability of labour and the scarcity of materials, we suddenly seem to be getting things to happen. At the time of writing the installation of the Zip Wire in the playing field has started and should be completed before the end of July. Additionally, we have installed two 'pub benches' – one within the children's section and the other one adjacent to the football pitch. If you are into exercise, great; if you're not you can sit and relax and take in the views. After what seems like a year or two it's so good to see the end result of the effort by the Playing Field Committee – John Hetterley, Christine Howell and Richard King. We are still looking for your views and ideas on what equipment and facilities you would like to see in the Playing field so please get in touch with John, Christine or Richard with any suggestions; ideally before the end of August which will enable them to draw up a priority list to present to the Parish Council.

It's that time of year again – Villager of the Year nominations, Adult and Young Person respectively. Given the issues caused by lockdown I'm sure there has been a lot of goodwill, help and support which has gone unheralded and is worthy of recognition, so please give it some thought and get your nominations in – a really special way to say thank you.

We have seen our fair share of road closures in recent weeks and it has to be said that the signs have been less than informative – 'close a road in Nailsworth and put signs up in Tetbury' - OK, a slight exaggeration but not much of one. Diversion notices sent us miles out of our way only to discover that we could get home using the road that was supposed to be closed. The Parish Council have made several requests to the County Council and Highways to qualify where exactly the closure is located. Highways put handwritten notices indicating dates and times of closures, so I think it is reasonable to ask for just one more detail to be added to the template. So far this has been beyond their remit, but we will keep asking. Those of us who experienced driving immediately after the gritting of the Nailsworth / Avening road will know what a frightening experience it was – however, after I phoned the emergency number, Highways did respond the next day with a road sweeper, the trip is now less stressful – so I thank them for a speedy response.

Recent village events such as the Bear Hunt clearly showed what talents and enterprise we are fortunate to have within our parish. However, if I'm permitted to have one negative observation it is this – there are numerous posters stapled to lampposts or electric poles, advertising events, promoting products, taxi services and the occasional missing pet. If you have already, or intend to put posters up, please

have the courtesy of removing them after a suitable interval. Technically it's littering and it detracts from the image of the village; but managed properly, I'm sure they would have more impact if they are seen to be current. (If it's a missing pet – even more important to update it)

The low levels of water in the stream in recent weeks is still the subject of investigations by the Environmental Agency and while we are not at this stage privy to details; they have assured us at a recent site meeting, that they have ongoing correspondence with the appropriate land owners.

Affordable Housing: the proposed development at the end of Lawrence Road is an opportunity for anyone who is interested to apply for one of the houses – the application is online at Homeseekers on the Cotswold District Council website.

On a bright note, I'm pleased to announce that there will be an Avening Village Fete scheduled for 12th September – the return of the famous Duck Race and all that goes with it.

As always – keep safe and look out for others.

Patrick Mulligan

Chairman of Avening Parish Council

For Covid assistance contact Covid19@avening-pc.gov.uk or call 07415 039234

Avening Zip Wire Project – We made it!

Good news! We met our crowdfunder target of £10,300 in June! The zip wire has now been ordered along with a couple of picnic tables which should be delivered soon. We also obtained a better price for the zip wire which will free up funding for other play equipment.

Over 210 people pledged during the two crowdfunder campaigns. The level of your support led to the recent donation of £2,000 by Cotswold District Council and we were also fortunate to receive funds from Calor Rural Community Fund, GCC Growing our Communities Fund, Renishaw, The Langtree Trust, Tetbury Lions (in memory of Bert Hand who used to live in the village) and the Parish Council. Thanks also to our local Councillors Richard Morgan (CDC) and Stephen Hirst (GCC) and for all organisations for publicising through social media and Newletters, particularly Avening Primary school, Minchinhampton Golf Club, Avening Community Café, Avening Community Orchard and the Villager.

Many thanks.



*Zip wire under construction
in the Playground*

Avening Parish Council

Avening and Cherington Churches



Sunday Services and Church Openings

Both Cherington Church and Avening Churches are now open daily between 9am and 5pm.

Sunday services planned for August are:

1 st Aug	10.00 am 11.00 am	Eucharist Service Avening PCC	Avening Church Avening Church
	3.00 pm	Lammas Service*	Coxes Farm
8 th Aug	10.00 am	Eucharist Service	Cherington Church
15 th Aug	10.00 am	Eucharist Service	Avening Church
22 nd Aug	10.00 am	Eucharist Service	Cherington Church
29 th Aug	10.00 am	Eucharist Service	Avening Church
5 th Sep	10.00 am	Eucharist Service	Avening Church
12 th Sep	10.00 am	Eucharist Service	Cherington Church

**for further information please see below and elsewhere in this magazine*

Evening prayers by Zoom continue, now on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm: for further details contact Derrick Pierce at derrickcompline@gmail.com or 01453 835090

Should there be any changes to the above, the latest arrangements will be found on the websites below.

Avening: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/14317/

Cherington: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/14319/

Our Annual Meetings

Both our churches have held their annual meetings in recent weeks with reports including those from Churchwardens, Treasurers, Pastoral Assistants, Safeguarding Officer and Parish Priest. At Cherington Helen Di Mauro and Claudia Ungar were elected as Churchwardens, and great appreciation was expressed to John Bate-Williams for his long service as a Churchwarden. Other matters included repairs to guttering and the possibility of managing the churchyard in a more explicitly environmentally friendly way. At Avening Elizabeth Buchanan and Liz Fuller were elected as Churchwardens. Our thanks go to all those who give generously of their time and energy for our churches.

As for most churches across the country, the Covid lockdown has had a significant impact on the finances at both of our churches with a drop in donations.

Wholeness and Healing Service held on 1st July.

This short quiet service provided us with an opportunity to reflect on human divisions and to pray for wholeness and healing wherever it is needed.



Pet Service at Cherington on 4th July

Many of our pets turned out on a rather damp afternoon but they enjoyed getting together (well the dogs did, not so sure about the goldfish who gets offended unless he is called a coy carp) and being treated for what they are - valued members of God's creation.

Lammastide, 1st August at 3.00 pm

The word is an abbreviation of 'loaf-mass' and is derived from the Anglo-Saxon

Hlafmaesse. It was a common service before the Reformation as a thanksgiving for the first-fruits of the wheat harvest, and is now increasingly being recognised again: we will play our part in that renewal with a service which, by kind permission of Henry Arden, will take place at Coxes Farm – leave Cherington village green with the hall on your left, the farm is a short distance on the left just before the next road junction.

Holiday or Holyday

Much uncertainty and concern for those hoping for a holiday abroad at the moment and we were reminded at a recent Sunday service of Jesus' words to his followers just after they had spent some busy time serving the needs of others: *"Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest for a while"*. For him 'away times' were an opportunity to reflect, to pray and to be re-energised: they were holy times.

Even if you cannot have the holiday you would wish, I hope that you are able to have a fulfilling break of some sort - we are fortunate to live in an area where others come for their holidays.

From the Parish Registers

23rd May Baptism of Rosie Kent (Cherington)

26th June Baptism of Padraic l'Anson (Cherington)

26th June Marriage of Max Mitchell and Lauren Heesom (Cherington)

Gerald South, Parish Priest for Avening and Cherington

gp.south@btopenworld.com 01453 88345

Church Details

The winter of 1947 was bitterly cold in England, with temperatures from the end of January to the middle of March barely rising above freezing- and frequently it was well below freezing. Snow fell almost every day somewhere in the country and because of the low temperatures the snows stayed on the ground, blocking roads and preventing delivery of food or coal. The weather was so cold that in Avening the ground under the floor of the church porch froze, pushing the stone floor up so that the outer church doors could not shut properly. When the thaw finally arrived, the floor stayed in its frozen position, and the doors remained partially open. The outer doors are thick heavy oak, and it wasn't until 2009 that two strong volunteers re-shaped the doors and then rehung them so they could be shut.

Elizabeth Buchanan

Puzzle Corner

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

Across

1. Freedom (7)
5. Berate (5)
8. Rhinal (5)
9. Amazing (7)
10. Impassive (7)
11. Tendency (5)
12. Fruit (6)
14. Loved (6)
17. Banquet (5)
19. Gossip (7)
22. Embrocations (7)
23. Entomb (5)
24. Arrows (5)
25. Mariners (7)

Down

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Golf course (5) | 5. Perfumed (7) | 15. Rice dish (7) |
| 2. Woodwind instrument (7) | 6. Earth's protective layer (5) | 16. Dissertation (6) |
| 3. Object surviving the past (5) | 7. Feared (7) | 18. Change (5) |
| 4. Annual (6) | 12. Perplexed (7) | 20. Legal excuse (5) |
| | 13. Countries (7) | 21. Tall tales (5) |

1		2		3		4		5		6		7
8						9						
10								11				
12				13			14			15		
							16					
17		18				19		20				21
22								23				
24							25					

www.puzzlechoice.com

Gilian's Poem of the Month

I stumbled upon this hidden graveyard by chance, whilst walking with my dog in unknown countryside , not all that far from here. Where is it ? Ah, that is my secret!

A Place Apart

Sweet, careless, grasping fingers of honeysuckle twine,
The rusting scrolls of stubborn gate between,
Where sun-warmed walls of crumbling stone, enfold a world apart,
A secret place, a wilderness, a dream ...

Spired rosebay drifts of willow herb bewitch bright butterflies,
Wild roses, rambling, tangle the drowsy bees,
Old silver birches dapple shade beneath cascades of leaves
On flower - strewn grasses, dancing to please the breeze.

Here long-forgotten souls sleep on, their slumber undisturbed;
No pealing bells, no parson's prayers, no choir 's anthems ring,
Just whispering wind - song in tall trees it's own sweet music makes,
And joyful hymns, spilled in the air, as all the wild birds sing.

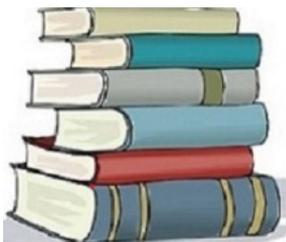
High on this summer hillside, enchanted, I stand alone,
Lost betwixt field and wood, and arching sky,
As thrush-song echoes round neglected graves of souls long-gone,
Time holds it's breath, while the frenzied world rolls by

Gilian Bulmer - Davison

Sandford Trust

Small grants are available from the Sandford Trust, a charity for local young people going on to university or work based training. I would welcome applications from anyone living in the parish of Avening, on or before 10th September, after which the annual distribution of funds will be made.

Applications should be made in writing, by the claimant, to:



Mrs Kelly Wilkinson
Larch House
Pound Hill
Avening
Gloucestershire
GL8 8LZ



Steam Engine AB 1823 Arrives in Avening!



*Harry on arrival in Avening on 7th
May 2021.*

If, by chance, you have glanced into the driveway at The Old Rectory you may have noticed a rather large steam engine sitting on the lawn – this is “Harry” and here is his story.

Originally just a number, AB 1823 was ordered on 4th December 1923 for stock by the locomotive builder, Andrew Barclay Sons & Co Ltd from Kilmarnock in Ayrshire. In 1924 an order came from the Colzium Quarry Ltd on 30th January. The steam engine was outshopped for £1,370 in black lined dark red on 14th March 1924 and then despatched to their Kilsyth Quarry in Stirling around the same time. AB1823 was the only locomotive on site but sadly the Quarry went out of business in 1929.

In 1933 the locomotive was sold to the Yorkshire Tar Distillers Ltd, Kilnhurst Works, Rotherham, Yorkshire where she remained until 1947 and was known as “Chemicals” having replaced “Chemicals Manning Wardale 1773/11” who had been the sole locomotive until this time. The steam engine was reboilered in 1946 and with the arrival of a new AB, transferred to their Stourton Works, Yorkshire between 1947 and 1958. Here she replaced “The Colonel Peckett 1486/17” and was the only locomotive on site between 1955 and 1956. She later returned to the Kilnhurst Works between May 1958 and 1965. The name “Chemicals” was subsequently dropped before she once again returned to Stourton Works around 1965 before going on to Kilnhurst Works for a year and her last overhaul in 1967. “Chemicals” was then transferred to Cleckheaton Works in Yorkshire and from 1967 to 1969 shared the work with a diesel locomotive.

Ownership then passed to Midland-Yorkshire Tar Distillers Ltd in December 1967 where she was stored before returning to Kilnhurst Works between 1969 and 1971 after which time she was not in use.

Between 1971 and 1974 the engine was sold to KG Rose and moved to Mersey Docks & Harbour Board at Princes Dock, Liverpool for storage. She then worked a steam hauled train on the docks on 19th March and again on 24th July 1971.

Unfortunately, the storage shed was due for demolition, so the engine was moved to Yorkshire Dales Railway Co Ltd, Embsay, Yorkshire. The site was renamed the Steam and Vintage Transport Centre around 1971. Once again, the locomotive entered traffic with the livery “Chemicals” on 29th July 1971 and was repainted in white. However now in need of repair and being too small for the line the engine was sold.

Crossley Brothers (ShIPLEY) Ltd Scrap Merchants subsequently bought the engine and moved her to their site at ShIPLEY, Station Road, ShIPLEY, West Yorkshire where she was brought back into industrial use from 20th June 1974 until 3rd August 1984. This purchase

was made as an assurance due to the persistent threat of oil supplies at the time and to ensure there was a reliable standby to the diesel engine. Returning to industrial use and entering traffic in 1974 in unlined dark green, black and red frames "Chemicals" was standing in for the diesel when under repair.

With the arrival of a second diesel in October 1976, she was shunted to the back of the yard and stored. The elements were not kind and before too long the locomotive started to decay.

Then, Peter Davis KWVR volunteer, offered to restore the engine to working order and this was done between July and December 1980. She then re-entered traffic in dark blue lined white and adorned with the Crossley Company emblem on the cab sides in honour of the founder of the firm Harry Crossley. Alan Crossley re-named the locomotive "Harry" on 8th January 1981 and once again she re-entered into industrial use although sadly unseen by railway enthusiasts.

It was said that a visiting British Rail diesel (Class 31 diesel of York MPD) arrived, and the driver was visibly shocked when she steamed out to receive the empty wagons! The company found that it was cheaper to run their steamer than to start up one of the three diesels. The only drawback was the time it took to get up steam! The yard handled 1,000 tons of scrap each week and shunting must have started very early each morning. If "Harry" was not ready until 11 am then the Hunslet or one of the two Rustons diesels were used to get the wagons moving. Yard Manager, Anthony Evans, confirmed that approximately 25 wagons were turned round each day.

"Harry" became redundant in April 1982 due to the introduction of 100-ton air-braked freight liner wagons being introduced in 1983/4 as the locomotive was not suitable for handling them.

Ownership then passed to Crossley Evans Ltd around 1984 when "Harry" steamed for the last time on 27th July 1984. On the death of Alan Crossley, ownership passed to Mrs Lilian Crossley from 1984 until November 1992. "Harry" was put on permanent loan with the Peak Railway at Midland Station, Buxton, Derbyshire from 3rd August 1984 until 5th March 1989. "Harry" re-entered traffic in dark blue lined white in 1984. In 1986 the locomotive went in for an overhaul and once again re-entered traffic in dark blue.

The locomotive was still in working order in April 1988, and in 1989 she was transferred to a new site at Darley Dale to start track laying. She steamed on 5th March before going on a two-week whistle stop tour in April 1989 to various shopping premises at Sheffield, South Yorkshire before returning to Darley Dale in December that year.

From December 1989 until November 1992 "Harry" was moved to Middleton Railway Trust at Hunslet, Leeds. On subsequent inspection it was



What a transformation! Harry on 21st June .

found that the engine needed a complete overhaul.

During the first week of June 1990 the locomotive became known as “1823 Harry”. Subsequent, with a change in the management of the Crossley, the company no longer wished to retain ownership of the locomotive and in 1992 it was sold to Mr Ian Smith of Newport, South Wales and the engine was moved to the Pontypool and Blaenavon Railway. Over the next 29 years, it gained the appearance of ‘Thomas the Tank Engine’ by being re-painting in light Nacton Blue, and Ian Smith was able to complete a certain amount of restoration, but it has not steamed since 1990. Due to failing health, Mr Smith sold all of his collection of wagons and engines to a glamping company in Kent, but Harry was surplus to requirements and so was sold on to the current owner and delivery to Avening shed took place in May 2021.

The plan is to cosmetically restore ‘Harry’ so that he looks something like he will appear once the mechanical overhaul is complete. 1823 is basically 99% complete and fundamentally restorable. The good news is that the frames and motion are in good condition, but the tank is life-expired, and the boiler will need significant surgery at the boiler hospital! ‘Harry’ will be in Avening till the spring of 2023 before going away for its full mechanical overhaul, so that hopefully he will be steamed again sometime during his 100th year, fingers crossed.

If anyone would like to join me in some gentle restoration, please call me on 07703 200442 or to view progress, Harry has his own Facebook page, Friends of 1823 Harry.

Peter Best

dental
practice

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&
townes
01453 827474

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(Even if we are lovely!)

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Longfield Hospice

Join Longfield Hospice for its first ever **Superhero Challenge**.



The event takes place on **Sunday 22 August** in the beautiful **Westonbirt Arboretum**. Walk, jog or run through the pathways and tree-lined avenues of the arboretum. You choose the pace! The event is open to all ages and you are encouraged to wear a cape or costume as you soar around the course.

Don't miss this lovely opportunity to take part with your very own superhero, or remember an inspirational person in your life. All superheroes to complete 5 km will receive a medal.

What does it cost to take part?

Early bird prices are: Adults: £20, Children: £15. A £5 per car fee is also payable when you book your place and will go The Forestry Commission. This will allow you (and up to four spectators) entry to the arboretum – that's a saving of up to £35 in entry fees!

All money raised on top of your entry fee will help Longfield Hospice provide care and support for our patients and their families at a time when they need it most. With our NHS still dealing with the impact of the pandemic, end-of-life care has never been more vital.

Right now, our Hospice at Home team is working across Gloucestershire, caring for patients in their last days and weeks. As a registered charity, we rely on the hard work and generosity of people like you to fund this essential care. Thank you.

To sign up and for more information head over to the hospice website at <https://www.longfield.org.uk/event/superhero-challenge/>



"Artwork Created during Lockdown"

The Great Exhibition In Avening Church



Sculpture, drawings, paintings and photographs.

On **10th, 11th and 12th of September**.

Five items per person. Prizes for Children's Photography and Adult Photography.

For more information please contact George Buchanan by [email: buchanan.pg@gmail.com](mailto:buchanan.pg@gmail.com)

Avening Surveys

Avening Playing Field

A couple of months ago the Parish Council asked the residents of Avening for feedback about how you use the playing fields and for suggestions about what additional facilities you'd like to see provided.

We have had feedback from a wide range of residents including Hawks Class of Avening Primary School! We are hoping for more feedback and suggestions, and will keep the consultation open for another month or so, but thought that it would be useful and interesting to summarise some of the feedback received so far.

Playing with friends, entertaining children, dog walking, football and basketball seem to be the most popular uses of the playing fields, although sledging in the snow also received a mention!

The most popular suggestions for 'new' equipment was a replacement zipwire and seating in the play area, both of which we are delighted to report are now underway thanks to the tireless efforts of John Hetterly and the generosity of the many donors. Other suggestions are for out-door gym equipment, a nature corner, more bins, a slide, more equipment for toddlers, tyre swings in the woods, new park benches, improved basket ball area, a tennis court, an outdoor table-tennis table, new football posts and finally lighting, power and water.

Also notable were the number of comments about dog fouling and we are very aware of the problem and are considering ways of tackling the issue. Litter was also reported as an issue and we are also looking at ways of improving the current situation.

We'd like to thank everyone who has contributed so far and would like to encourage anyone who wishes to make some suggestions or comments to do either via the sheets in the book boxes outside 6 Old Hill, or directly to Richard King at richard@avening-pc.gov.uk.

Avening Tree Survey

With the advent of Ash Die-Back, Chestnut Blight and Acute Oak Decline the trees in the UK are under increasing threat and the trees of Avening are no exception. To better understand the impact of these diseases and other threats to the trees of Avening the parish Council have decided to try and record the location of the significant trees in the village. We hope that this will give us all a snap shot of the current health of the village trees and help us monitor and changes.

As a first pass at this we'd like to invite the residents of Avening to let us know about significant trees in the village. There is no strict definition of 'significant' for this exercise, but we are looking to identify mature trees that could be considered to form an important part of the village landscape.

If you would like to contribute to this survey please contact Richard King at richard@avening-pc.gov.uk with the location and description of any trees that you think should be recorded.

Richard King

Cherington Plant Sale



A very successful pop up plant sale was held on the Village Green recently. All the plants were grown and nurtured by Kevin and Christine, our resident Village Gardeners. There was a profusion of colour, foliage and blooms. It was held early as the Cherington Show this year is on the 19th September and the plants were ready to find a new home. After such a difficult year it was wonderful to see so many people laughing and joking on the green. We served teas and coffees and all the village bakers produced such an array - people went away clutching not only plants but cakes!

We made over £1,100!

Thank you everyone for all your support.

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Village People

Tony Slater's Story

I recently spent a very happy afternoon with Tony and Mandy in their wonderful new home, munching a delicious scone, pressed on me by Mandy (for purely research purposes you understand), and enjoying a very welcome cup of tea. This set the scene perfectly for finding out about their lives together and a bit more about Tony in particular, who as you will know, has just stepped down from being Chairman of the Avening Parish Council. He served with distinction,



charm and good humour as a Councillor for many years, as Deputy Chairman to both Jim Parsons and Mick Williamson and finally Chairman for the last seven years. During this time he has achieved so much for our village, including his wonderful photographic coverage of events over many years, often featured in the Villager (see cover for this edition!)



Tony was born in London on 8th October 1960. He was the youngest of four children. As the much loved baby of the family he remembers a supremely happy early family life. Certainly, the photos show a smiley little boy, who grew up to be a happy man. He won a place at Shooters Hill Grammar School and then went on to join Lloyds Bank in London where he learnt his banking 'craft'.

Tony's move with his family from London to Cherington in 1982 was the result of his mother's long held wish to return to her roots once Tony's father retired. Although Tony has always loved this area, the move eventually stunted his career which had been progressing nicely when he worked in London. He moved branches in Lloyds a couple of times when he arrived in Gloucestershire and whilst working at the Stroud branch he met Mandy Vaughan, who knew a good thing when she saw it and after a two year courtship they were married in Cherington in 1984, when Mandy was 22 and Tony 24. They settled into their new life together and their daughters Shelley and Emma were born in 1988 and 1990.



In 2006, when he was 45, Tony took voluntary redundancy and went freelance, working in the financial services industry as a project manager. He worked for various organisations, including Lloyds, Norwich Union, and Nationwide and told me it was in every way a good move for him and the family. He was his own boss and never unemployed. He retired in March 2020 when he turned 60 with judicious use of his final salary pension arrangements.

In 2013 he was able to buy the plot of land on which the new house has been built, which was directly opposite the house in Sandford Leaze the family lived in for 30 years. An architect was appointed in January 2014, but thereafter Mandy and he masterminded the build which was completed in December 2015. There were considerable bumps on the



way and at times it was Mandy, left behind while Tony was away working, who was pivotal in guiding the project through to the end. They are thrilled with what has been achieved, but even now there are times they cannot believe that it all ended so well! Many of our readers will have watched the story of their project on Building the Dream with Charlie Luxton, and followed events in the Villager.

The happiness of his earlier life has been continued for Tony with the arrival of their first grandchild, Ethan, now nearly 2, followed by Cody this July, with another grandchild due later this year.

Tony became interested in local politics initially because he had realised, during his working life, that he had a gift for spotting useful solutions for difficulties in which he felt interested and concerned. As a Councillor he was closely involved in matters connected with roads, one of those issues which acutely affect our daily lives. He enjoyed working with Jim and Mick and developing his own projects when he finally became Chairman.

I asked him what he is most proud of during this time. He feels that the important thing is to be consistent and to keep momentum going. His continuing efforts to renovate and conserve the Memorial Hall are vital not only as a place for events to take place, but to make sure that the school can continue to function in a number of ways there. Although his plans for the playing fields were perhaps seen as a bit ambitious at the time they were drawn up, he is particularly happy to see the zip wire project well on its way and other plans, similar to ones he had dreamt of, in the pipeline.

However, above all he is particularly proud of two other things. He has raised the profile and connection of the PC with the public, achieved by his rebuilding the website, plus direct communication via a new Facebook page that he set up, and of course, sponsorship of The Villager. It has meant that the public feel confident to raise all manner of issues with the Council directly and via these mediums. Secondly, he feels proud of the WW1 Son-et-Lumiere. He helped bring Click's vision to life for one of Avening's biggest ever events. He is looking forward to supporting Patrick Mulligan as he takes up the role of Chairman and although he will continue on the Council for a short time, he intends to leave completely fairly soon to enjoy some travel and his family life, including his grandchildren.

Tony and Mandy feel strongly that they are not essentially risk takers. Each of the three occasions on which they took a chance were carefully considered. They bought, as an investment property, a house in St Ives about 16-17 years ago, which they recently sold. Tony made the bold decision all those years ago to leave his 'safe', but unsatisfying, job to go freelance and finally they closed their eyes, jumped and reached for the stars, when they built their beautiful house here in Avening.



Tony and Mandy are happy, generous people. He feels that he has been lucky, but I think that they have made their own luck and it was fun to hear their story.

Frances Conway

Cherington Church Warden Retires

It was with good humour, thanks and prayers that we gathered in the church yard at Cherington on Sunday July 11th to thank John Bate Williams for his devoted work as Church Warden at St Nicholas Cherington for these past 18 years, as he now steps down from the post for a well-earned rest! We thanked him with a selection of books on cycling and historical churches and a traveling coffee press



Liz Workman spoke on behalf of the parishioners “ John we owe you an enormous debt of gratitude for your remarkably long service here as Church Warden: you started at the beginning of the century: you have served alongside 3 Priests in Charge, and a range of fellow Church Wardens – that of Roger Gegg being by far the longest: your departure has been made possible by the willingness of Claudia to step in and join Helen who now takes over your mantle (and your inspired instigation of coffee mornings) – we have a combination which fills us all with great confidence.



Your responsibilities have included overseeing two Vacancies, 4 Quinquennial Surveys and subsequent repairs, seeking Diocesan Faculties, resolving the Driver’s Charity foundation with the Charity Commission, the repair of altar tombs and gravestones, churchyard walls, trees, churchyard mowing, the burial ground space, church heating and clearing the bell chamber of jackdaws’ nests, to name but a few. Phew!

The patience, time and energy you have devoted to our parish over such a long period has been so noticeable, always with the most sound of Christian principles and great humour - we thank Liz too for her constant support in all you have achieved for our church ... and all this alongside the extreme and often unpredictable demands of your Day

Job (not to mention tents and Shepherds’ Huts!) Thank you so much, John – you made it all fun...

Helen DiMauro

Avening Community Café



We are now back inside the Social Club every Tuesday morning from 10 – 11:30. Everyone can be assured of a warm welcome, good coffee, tea, hot chocolate and delicious homemade cakes. We are also opening the lounge area as a quiet room for those who find the acoustics difficult to cope with.

We shall be continuing with the one-way system and table service for the time being. Look forward to seeing you there.

John Hetterley

Keeping in Touch

This has not been so easy over the last fifteen months or so when we have, for good reasons, had to keep apart and have missed the usual contact with friends and family. For some people in our villages this has been the motivation for getting to grips with the digital world, having resisted and been somewhat nervous of taking such a step before. They have usually done this with the support and encouragement of a family member and I know it has not been without a good bit of determination on their part and of course some frustration! They have all been very glad they made the effort.

I have recently discovered the work of the amazing charity Abilitynet. Their aim is to make the digital world accessible to all. Amongst the very comprehensive services and support they offer are free fact sheets. They also have volunteers who can provide free IT support to older people and people with disabilities of any age. They can help with all sorts of IT (information technology) challenges, from setting up new equipment, fixing technical issues, to showing you how to stay connected to family and use online services. Realising what a lifesaver emails, photos, and Zoom and FaceTime chats and online shopping have been for many of us perhaps now would be a good time to take the digital plunge yourself or to encourage someone else, with your help to have a go. Do take a look at what is available <https://www.abilitynet.org.uk>.

And a follow up report of a personal experience of using this service

Since writing the above article I had the opportunity to recommend Abilitynet to Mary Hatherall who was looking for help to access online resources for her Aunt, Gaye Powell. Gaye, in her late eighties likes to keep in touch but does not get out and about so much these days. Having made initial contact online Mary was phoned by the charity the following day. They are not able to do home visits at present because of Covid restrictions but offered her the phone number of a volunteer, Steve, who she could ring for help. Mary has done this now a couple of times 'I was not quite sure of the next step and Steve was so helpful' she says. Mary's latest success was a 'Zoom sing along with Auntie Gaye'. Mary, with advice from Steve, has other ideas to try too and in helping Gaye she is gaining confidence and expertise herself – well done Mary and indeed well done Gaye!

Jennie South



Avening Playgroup



Over the past few weeks we have been looking at:

- Going to school - looking at photos of the school and lots of discussions about Teachers, uniforms, forest school, school lunches, assemblies and the playgrounds.
- Traditional stories - listening to, retelling them using visuals, acting out the stories and drawing pictures about them.
- Physical activities - Let's Move program, daily physio-gym, obstacle course, races and ball games - football, throwing, catching and bouncing the balls in hoops. The children especially enjoyed the running races and balancing on the beam during the obstacle course.

During the warmer weather the children have had lots of fun and splashes playing with the water – lots of pouring and filling different sized containers.

Staff are currently planning forward to the autumn term and especially looking at the changes to the Early Years Foundation Stage. The aim of the reforms is to improve the outcomes at age 5 and to reduce the workload. The 7 areas of learning and development remain the same, but they are more detailed and concentrate more on early language and extending vocabulary. There is also a new requirement to promote good oral health. There is a new version of Development Matters which remains non-statutory. The main difference is the age bands which will be Birth to 3; 3 and 4 year olds; Children in Reception. There will be more emphasis on professional judgement, based on practitioner knowledge and experience.



A big thank you to the committee and everyone who has supported the playgroup over

the past year, whether it be cutting the grass, going to the tip, purchasing/donating items or fixing things. It has once again been a tough year and the support has been greatly appreciated. I can only hope that the next school year will be less disruptive for everyone.

We wish the children leaving us this summer all the best and hope they will be very happy starting school in September.

Hope you all have a lovely summer and look forward to welcoming the children at playgroup on Monday 6th September.

If you would like any more information about our playgroup or to reserve a place for your child, please email aveningplaygroup@gmail.com



Angie Heslop

The Village Notice Board

As local groups and organisations now start to plan some events for later in July a reminder that 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. To discourage using unnecessary plastic there is no need to laminate them thank you. Please continue to give them to Jennie South directly, email jennie.south@btopenworld.com for printing and displaying or leave in the church porch in the envelope provided. 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.



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Avening School

Goodbye and Good Luck to our Year Six Leavers!

If you walked along the school lane a few weeks ago, you may have been fortunate enough to hear a few songs being sung by our y5/6 pupils who were delighting the rest of the school with a taster performance from their end of term production of Hoodwinked, a musical re-telling of the tale of Robin Hood. The performance was filmed and shared with parents and families. The children were so happy to be able to go ahead with the show and had a wonderful time dressing in costume and singing at the top of their voices.

The Eagles had an exciting visit from a local fire engine at the end of term. Dressing up as fire fighters, the children boarded the engine and squirted the hoses, creating a lot of joy all round and plenty of smiles!

We have so much enjoyed having Forest Green Rovers in school on Friday afternoons throughout the summer term. Their coaching team have been running sports clubs and sports lessons as well as PSHE sessions on tolerance and diversity with the older children. The club are also providing food bags for every family to take home for the summer holiday.



The school garden is flourishing with plants and wildlife as the whole school has been focusing on bio-diversity in Forest School sessions. The children have also participated in an interschool quiz, held virtually and also been learning about the school's carbon footprint and what they can do to conserve energy with the guidance from our chair of governors and engineer Mrs Wheatley.

As I write, the school is preparing to wave farewell to its inspirational year six pupils who are leaving to embark on the next stage of their academic adventure. Although the send-off may not be quite the same as previous years, staff have embraced the change and are ensuring the leavers depart in style with a special leavers' assembly being held outdoors for parents to attend and a BBQ and swimming party at Beaudesert School organised by a parent. We are so proud of our resilient year 6 and wish them all the very best for their transitions to secondary school.

We are also bidding farewell to the unflappable Mr Bond who, whatever the weather, has been our school crossing patrol for the past eight years. We are completely indebted to Mr Bond for keeping our children and families safe as they cross the busy high street twice a day and thank him for his many years of service with a smile.

Thank you to everyone who has been involved in keeping the wheels turning in school throughout another challenging academic year. We are looking forward to seeing everyone back in September as well as welcoming our new reception children, for what will hopefully be a smooth start to the autumn term. We are also hoping to be able to resume our Fledglings pre-school sessions from September. Watch this space!

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

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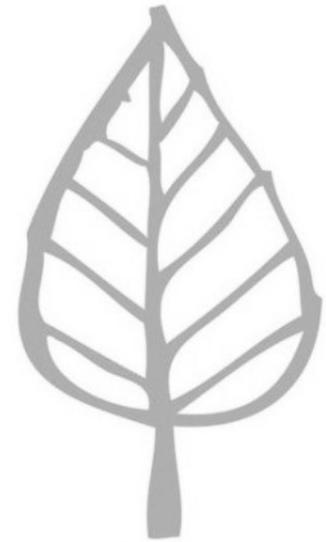
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Avening Youth Club



Avening Youth Club, run by The Door, is cancelled for the moment.

Full details of how to access all of The Door's services can be found at www.thedoor.org.uk and on Social Media @TheDoorStroud.

Want more information about Avening's Youth Club? Contact Rev Gerald South on 883456 or Isak at The Door on 01453 756745.

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Church Floodlighting



The church was floodlit on:

10th July to celebrate the life of **Mrs Margaret Simpson** (née Holbrow), formerly of Avening, who passed away in Canada on the 19th June 2021.

and on the same day celebrate the wedding anniversary of Ernest and Doreen Francis, also formerly of Avening.

24th July to Remember **Jim Townsend** on his birthday.

25th July to celebrate the 40th wedding anniversary of **Jane and Kieran Archer**

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.

Cherington Parish Council

The Parish Council Web Site is <https://cheringtonpc.org.uk/> and along with meeting, financial and council business news you may use it to address comments both to council members and to the clerk.

Mike Mitchell

Chairman Cherington Parish Council



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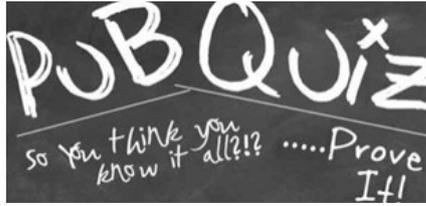
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Avening Parish Council



Playing Field

Following the fundraising efforts by Cllr Hetterley and the generous contributions from the community, the zip wire is being erected this week.

Cllr Hetterley worked hard to get the best possible deal which has resulted in additional funds available to spend on the playing field.

The Parish Council has listened to requests and installed two new benches. The Consultation for ideas for the park has been extended until August 30th, so if you think you have a preferred piece of equipment put your idea forward.

Please be aware that dogs are forbidden in the fenced children's play area.

Police Report

The Parish Council were pleased to welcome PCSO's Sue Fellow and Kim Collins to the meeting on the 21st July. Sue presented the police report which showed that crime in the area was lower than the same time last year. One issue that was raised is the change in crime. There are less in-person thefts, but scams are on the rise. People are losing thousands of pounds by falling for very convincing scams, ranging from Royal Mail emailing saying you need to make a payment for a parcel, to people pretending to be from BT asking you to call a premium number. Take care! If you receive a call you were not expecting do not give any personal details.

If a crime is in progress or you think a crime is in progress dial 999 or for less urgent problems dial 101. Non-urgent crimes can also be reported online.

Be a Wild World Hero with Gloucestershire Libraries

The national event led by the Reading Agency began on Saturday 10 July and runs until Friday 10 September, with the aim of encouraging children to enjoy reading and visiting their library.

As well as borrowing books, children can take away the popular "makeaway" packs which include crafty bits and pieces, plus instructions for families to make their own nature-inspired crafts at home. More information is available from your local library.

Planning Applications & Tree Works Since the Last Issue

New Planning Applications

21/02281/FUL – Land West of Avening House – Conversion of Agriculture Barn into a Dwelling

21/02403/FUL – 20 Sandford Leaze – Erection of First Floor Front Extension and Porch

21/02681/FUL – 27 Sandford Leaze – First Floor Extension.

Decision Notices

20/00887 FUL & 20/00888/LBC – Brook House, Hampton Hill – Window/Door Openings & repair Garden Wall (part retrospective) - Permitted

20/00430/FUL - 48 High Street – Erection of Balcony with underneath storage. - Permitted

Potholes

Report the potholes directly to Highways on 08000 514514 or at the GCC Report It website.

The next meeting will be on 18th August in the Memorial Hall

Agendas and minutes can be viewed at www.avening-pc.gov.uk. The Parish Clerk can be contacted via email: parishclerk@avening-pc.gov.uk

Goodbye.....

...to our mobile post office 'posties' Carole and Eric



All those who have cottoned on to the fantastic service provided by the Mobile Post Office in Avening each Tuesday will know that it has exceeded our expectations. This has been due in no small part to the helpfulness, kindness and patience and excellent level of service provided by Carole and Eric. We were sorry to hear from them when they came on 13th July that this would be their last Tuesday on the van. They were naturally feeling a bit sad themselves and

didn't want a fuss. However, some of us were able to pop in and see them to say thank you and goodbye and it is good to write a public thank you to them here. Carole says that she and Eric started on 'the van' when they offered to help out until they could get someone else. This 'stop gap' turned into just over three years. Managing the van is a solo operation but as Carole does not drive husband Eric, already retired for some fifteen years, came along as her driver. What a great double act they have been. Eric really will retire this time and he says with a smile, 'work on the list' Carole leaves him while she continues to work back at base camp in the office. Carole and Eric said how much they have enjoyed coming to Avening and that they plan to pop in and join us for a coffee and cake at the Community Café one Tuesday. A warm welcome awaits them.

Jennie South

And a reminder:

Mobile Post Office at Avening Social Club every Tuesday 10.30 til 12.30 They can generally do all the things that can be done at a normal Post Office branch. Do make use of this great service on our doorstep and come and meet Debbie – our new 'van' lady.

Avening W.I.



We are hoping to resume our monthly meetings in the autumn but in the meantime we have been enjoying several outdoor activities.

We recently had a very enjoyable afternoon viewing the beautiful gardens and grounds of Charlton Down House near Westonbirt. Twenty seven members received a very warm welcome from the owners, Neil and Julie Record, who then gave us a short history of the house and gardens before arranging us in groups for a

guided tour with the Head Gardener, Sarah. We were also able to wander on our own and to visit the various retired and rescue animals who live in the grounds. Some members also took the opportunity of a trip by buggy to see the Jubilee Copse of mixed native trees planted by the owners in 2012. The afternoon was rounded off by tea and delicious cakes, and a photo opportunity on the Giant's Seat, a fun oversize bench. Although this was an exclusive visit for our group, the gardens are open under the NGS scheme including Thursday afternoons in August (5th, 19th, 26th), bookable online on the NGS website. Well worth a visit!



We have also been enjoying some local walks, led by Wendy, including one of her favourite walks. We started up Woodstock Lane, then the bridleway towards Hazel Wood and across the fields to Westend Lane. The bridleway was bordered by many species of wildflowers including several types of orchid, and luckily we had Bridget and Jennie with us to identify them all. We continued up the opposite hill and enjoyed glorious views towards Avening, before heading down again and back to the village.

This month we are planning a Treasure Hunt around Minchinhampton, organised by Shirley, followed by a lunch in her garden. We are delighted to have had several new members join us recently and have lots of new plans and ideas moving forward. For more information please contact our secretary Soo at aveningwi@gmail.com or our President, Liz, on 01453 833803.

Helen Haiselden



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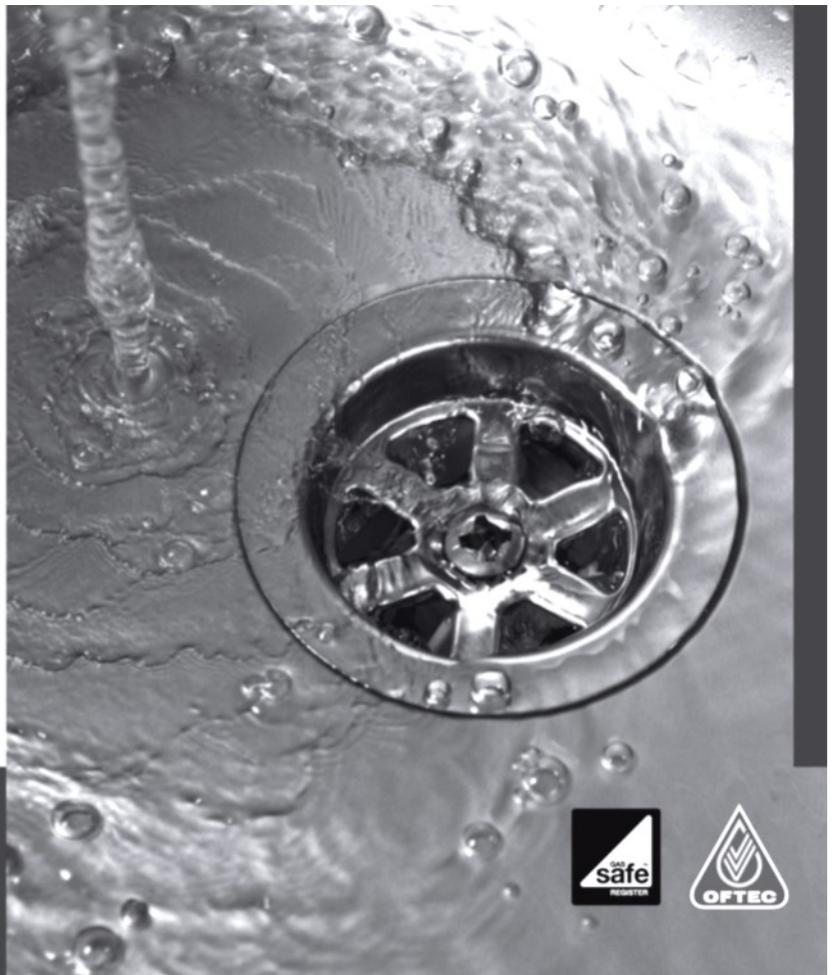
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