

# The Villager

A Magazine for Avening,  
Cherington and Nags Head



**81<sup>st</sup>**

## CHERINGTON SHOW 2026

*A traditional village show for all the family!*

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July**

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## July 2026

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# July 2026

Phew, what a scorcher the last few days of June turned out to be! Let's hope for more 'normal' weather in July.

Fortunately, Avening Church Fete and Art Show took place before the very hot weather came along, a very enjoyable and successful afternoon, well done to all the organisers and everyone who came along. We have included write ups and photos of both events in this month's magazine.

This month we look forward to the Cherington Show on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July, always a very popular event. A children's workshop will be held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July, between 3 and 6pm, to help our younger residents create entries for their competition classes.

As well as articles covering the regular events and activities taking place in our villages, it is always good to include individual contributions of local interest. We would be pleased to hear from our readers, perhaps about wildlife sightings in and around our villages, (have you seen the young fox that is regularly out in the daytime around Avening?), or short stories, photos or memories of life in old Avening, Cherington, or Nags Head.

We look forward to hearing from you!

*The Villager Editors*

## The Villager Magazine

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**Deliveries** Cas Boddam-Whetham 07900 472999

**Deadline** 18th of each month

Read online at [www.avening-pc.gov.uk](http://www.avening-pc.gov.uk)

## Photographs in The Villager Magazine

Many thanks to the Cherington Show Committee for this month's front cover.

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

[editors@villagemag.online](mailto:editors@villagemag.online)

*The Editors do not guarantee the accuracy of the information contained in this publication or accept responsibility for errors or omissions or their consequences. Opinions expressed by contributors to this publication are not necessarily those of the Editors.*

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## **VILLAGE & AREA WEB SITES**

**Avening Parish Council: [www.avening-pc.gov.uk](http://www.avening-pc.gov.uk)**

**Cherington Parish Council: [cheringtonpc.org.uk](http://cheringtonpc.org.uk).**

**Cherington Village: [www.cheringtonvillage.co.uk](http://www.cheringtonvillage.co.uk)**

**Cotswold District Council: [www.cotswold.gov.uk](http://www.cotswold.gov.uk)**

**Facebook: Avening    Instagram: #aveningvillage**

# Gilian's Poem of the Month

## Location, Location, Location!

This corner of the Cotswolds has long been home to me,  
With its many hills, and verdant vales where streams flow to the sea.  
There is common land, and woodland which clothes the steep hillsides,  
With sheep and cattle in the fields, and several farms besides.

There are villages with village greens where ancient churches stand,  
And winding lanes with drystone walls, wandering across the land.  
There's a market town of honeyed stone with the local shops I know,  
And all the folk are friendly, and the pace of life is slow.

I stand high on a hillside with the view spread all around,  
With patchwork fields, and scattered farms, birdsong the only sound.  
The breeze runs fingers through my hair, and sun kisses my face,  
As I marvel at the beauty of this beloved place.....

*Gilian Bulmer-Davison*

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# Dates for your Diary

Come along and join in the fun at any of the events below - everyone is always welcome! Both the Memorial Hall & Social Club can also be hired for private functions

Date	Event	Location	Time
Friday 10th July	Avening School Summer Fayre	Memorial Hall	Afternoon
Tuesday July 14th	Cherington Show Children's Workshop	Cherington Hall	3.00 - 6.00pm
Sunday July 26th	Cherington Show	Cherington	From 1pm
Thursday July 30th	Play Rangers	Avening Playing Field	10am - 4pm
Thursday August 20th	Play Rangers	Avening Playing Field	10am - 4pm



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# Avening and Cherington Churches



*"St. Swithin's Day, if it does rain,  
Full forty days, it will remain.  
St. Swithin's Day, if it be fair,  
For forty days, 'twill rain no more."*

As I sat down to write this article on the 1st of June, I heard a sound not heard in recent weeks: drops of rain hitting my study window. It was the first rainfall since the mini-heatwave over the May half term, and it was a relief to see. As I thought ahead to what July might bring, the sound of the rain reminded me of the familiar St Swithin's Day poem.

St Swithin (or Swithun) was Bishop of Winchester in the ninth century, who asked to be buried 'humbly' (rather than with the usual pomp and circumstance that comes with the office of bishop). His wishes were granted when he died on 2 July 862. However, when a new cathedral was built a little over 100 years later, Swithun's successor – Ethelwold – decided to move Swithun's remains to a shrine in the cathedral, despite dire warnings that to move his bones would bring about terrible storms. He was translated to the shrine on 15 July 971... after which, according to legend, it rained for forty days, and ever since his feast-day has been synonymous with long, summer storms and weather folklore.

However, weather experts say that since records began in 1861, there has never been a record of 40 dry or 40 wet days in a row following St Swithin's Day. So perhaps it is best not to plan the church fete – or the holiday washing line – round St Swithin's forecast.

Whether St Swithin's prediction proves true or not, the changing weather is a reminder that we live in a world that is beyond our control and often unpredictable. Rain and sunshine come in their season, and each has its purpose.

As summer unfolds, may we find reasons to give thanks for both, trusting in the God who sends the rain and makes the sun to shine.

With every blessing,

*Revd Natalie Jennings*



## Donations to Avening Church

Donations towards the upkeep and running of Avening Church can be made at any time either by using the QR code here or on the card machine just inside the church door.

## Church Services

	Avening	Cherington
Sunday 5th July	10am – Morning Prayer	4pm – Reflective Ramble
Sunday 12th July	10am – Holy Communion	
Sunday 19th July	6pm – Evening Prayer	10am – Holy Communion
Sunday 26th July	10am – Holy Communion	No service – it's Show Day!
Sunday 2nd August	No services – join us for the Big Top Service 9am at the Big Top, Gifford's Circus, Minchinhampton Common	



### Church Floodlighting

The church looks beautiful at night when floodlit. If you would like to have this in memory of a loved one, or to celebrate a special event, contact **Nicholas Winkfield** on **07885 139275**.

The cost is £10 for 2 hours.

## Puzzle Corner

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

### 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 15**

# 81 Years - and Still Going Strong

It is that time of year when Cherington is getting ready for its annual fund raiser, the Cherington Show which takes place this year on

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July.**

Cherington is famous for its Show.

In the summer of 1945, with the end of the war in sight, the village decided to celebrate and hold a Flower Show and Carnival. Who else to organise it but the Women's Institute? With the help of the Home Guard a marquee was erected on the lawn at Cherington Park. The Carnival was a Fancy-Dress Competition and villagers paraded through the village in their costumes.

The prizes to be won from the stalls were very different from today's and were of a distinctly earthy and practical nature after the many years of war rationing. A live pig or a pair of cockerels could be won!

The Competitions were and still are a very important part of this Village Show.

In those days with limited coupons and little money women had become very adept at "making do". Creating clothes from worn out materials and creating cookery dishes from very little ingredients.

We still have these competitions, maybe a little different but they are a very important part of the Show. On the day Horticulture and Flowers are displayed in the Church, which becomes a riot of colours and the most beautiful scent as you walk in the door. When it was decided all those years ago to change the day of the show from the Saturday to the Sunday it was felt by the Priest at the time that it was wrong to judge anything in Church, particularly on the Sabbath. But Richard Grant Rennick, one of the Organisers, said "we are all judged by God in Church" - so, Sunday it was and still is.

Cookery and Handicraft Competitions are held in the Village Hall. In recent times crafting and growing has become much more popular with people taking up sewing, knitting etc and growing vegetables and flowers. Sustainability is the key.

This year we want to make this a bumper year of displays in the Church and the Hall

**So, do you grow, do you bake, do you make?**

If so, we would love to display your beautiful work.

We have a range of children's competitions too: gardening, cookery, crafting. To help them with their entries we are holding a **Children's Workshop** on

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 3pm-6pm** All materials supplied.

All details are on our website

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# District Councillor's Report



At the May Overview & Scrutiny (O&S) meeting, we reviewed the proposals for changes to Waste Collection. The administration plans to remove the so called 'Bring Site' service which are the collection bins at supermarkets and car parks. This will save a modest £30,000 pa, but will allow for the introduction of statutory kerbside collection of plastic bags and wrapping from April 2027.

Less palatable are their plans to change other collections – paper and card are to be amalgamated, but we will continue to use the dreadful blue sacks, despite acknowledging they are not fit for purpose due to the increased volume of card from households. With Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) now very much being planned, I asked why we couldn't adopt a 'mixed recycling' approach with appropriate bins, such as those used in the Stroud district, especially as we are ordering brand new bin lorries. The response was that it wasn't possible as we have a large stock of blue bags! So, dear reader, we will be stuck with these horrible things for at least another 6 years! The final piece of their plan is to reduce the size of the residual waste black bins - for all new homes, and any replacement bins will be 140 litres instead of the current 180. These measures were later agreed by the Cabinet.

Several updates for long running water issues around Cherington and Avening – after 6 years, the Environment Agency are reviewing recently received reparation plans from a local landowner who created a new dam without permission and damaged the associated watercourse, contributing to the Avening brook repeatedly running dry – I will be able to comment on the plans in due course. In a related action, the long-awaited report into the impacts of abstraction on our local waterways is due for publication in the next few weeks. However, the reason for continued sewage discharges into the stream still hasn't been explained, and I have chased Severn Trent for an urgent response.

I sometimes share with you the topics I receive in my inbox – the vast majority relate to run of the mill queries on potholes (report these via Fix My Street), closed roads (very annoying when unnecessary), planning and enforcement issues, and rubbish collection. However, the last week has thrown up a couple of unusual cases – I had a report of a bin man relieving himself on more than one occasion on private land! The resident reported this to CDC, and I took it up the line to senior management who were equally shocked. The individual wasn't identified, but crews were reminded they should use the welfare procedures issued to them and not have a 'country one' in people's gardens.

I had a call from a lady in distress because a grass snake had become trapped in a garden net. I didn't know any local snake charmers, so donned some wellies and was able to free the stricken reptile. It was a little worse for wear but slid off into the undergrowth to nurse its damaged tail.

***Councillor Tony Slater***  
***Cotswold District Council, Representing Grumbolds Ash with Avening.***  
***email: [Tony.slater@cotswold.gov.uk](mailto:Tony.slater@cotswold.gov.uk) Tel: 07793669930***

## The Big Wide World

We have to be very mindful. at this time of year, while driving on our lanes, of all the young creatures out in the world for the first time not realising what, for them, is potentially a dangerous and sometimes fatal scenario. Running or hopping in a safe area of grassland or woodland is one thing but venturing out and trying to cross a road is something altogether different.

Just the other day I passed Mrs. Partridge with her brood of six or eight of the tiniest chicks - so small, in fact, that I think they must have only just hatched. She was desperately trying to shepherd them off the roadside and into the safety of the field. Whether she managed this delicate operation I'll never know - the only consolation I had was that it wasn't a particularly busy stretch of road so I'm being optimistic that the little family will survive its arrival into the world.

It's early evening and I'm looking out on a really peaceful scene - blackbirds and thrushes seeing what they can find for supper, the inevitable pairs of pigeons and, hopping along in a very wary fashion, my friend the baby rabbit who seems to treat the garden as its home. He appeared about a week ago and is now a constant visitor. I know, that if it doesn't get eaten by a fox or swooped on by one of the many birds of prey, it's going to grow up and probably demolish somebody's prize vegetables but that's what nature's all about.

It will be fascinating to see which animals and birds are chosen to replace Winston Churchill on the new bank notes. The choice so far seems to include bumblebees, otters, puffins and red squirrels. Personally I would love to include a barn owl, a hare, a hedgehog and my favourite little bird - a robin. So we'll have to wait and see when the new notes eventually come into circulation.

In the meantime let us all be aware of our little friends emerging into their unknown and, for them, sometimes big, scary world.

*Ann Tarlton*

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**Claire 01453 834153**

## Puzzle Answers

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



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# Avening Community Café

Enjoy good company, crafts, delicious home-made cakes and a drink  
at your Community Café

Every Tuesday morning in the Social Club from 9 – 12 am.

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

The village annual art exhibition in June was a huge success thanks to the number of exhibitors and visitors. The Café rag rugs were on display at the front of the church and greatly admired. Some of our art group also had their work on show.

We look forward to seeing you at the café on Tuesday mornings where you can enjoy a slice of home-made cake or cheese scone for only £1.50 and a good cup of coffee for £2.00. What a bargain! Why not pop down to meet family and friends during the summer holidays. There will be crafting events for the children from 28 July onwards and they can also enjoy free soft drinks.

Let us know if you have any ideas to improve our weekly café mornings – such as themes or activities and we are always looking for volunteers to help behind the counter.

A reminder that if you have any surplus plants or garden produce, then please bring along to the Café “Plant table”. Any cash donations received go to Café Charities.

July Dates:

**7th Art with Mark** (£3 each, all materials supplied)

**14th Theme: The Open Golf tournament**

**21st Art with Mark** (£3 each, all materials supplied)

**28th Crafting for Children**

(Hope Café is taking a break until Tuesday 15th September).

*John Hetterley*

*For Avening Community Café*

## A Bite to Eat?

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

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

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

**For prices and any further details :**

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



## Avening Art Show 2026



A packed church full of beautiful and sometimes humorous artwork greeted visitors as they walked up from the village fete on Sunday 7th June. This year we had use of the whole church ably cleared by Stephanie Hamilton and Stephen Uzzell. And as local international engineering firm Renishaw PLC had generously donated, we were thus able to upgrade, extend and re-evaluate display options: George Buchanan and Charles Jones painted the central display boards and then designed and constructed demountable timber

frames which displayed not only the collection of stunning Rag Rugs handmade by the Community Cafe Craft team headed by Mike Metcalfe but also a magnificent floral half square triangle quilt by Wendy Jennings - all standing out against the limestone masonry.

A big thank you to all the photographic entries to the competition. Judged by a very impressed John Barben LRPC, Karen Porter won her category followed by Ken Stot then Krista Jones while George Dill won with a great image of Cherington Lake followed by Emrys Hanbury and then Olivia Dill. The judge's summary notes were given to each winner plus prize money.

All the artwork was skilfully hung by Mark Kelland and Nanette Godfrey who also sketched our wonderful models all afternoon - fantastic!



Grateful appreciation goes to those on the entry desk: Arthur Bury, Alison Winkfield, Michele Wheatley, Lizzie Carville, Deborah Blackie and Elizabeth Oliver and also Elizabeth Buchanan for behind-the-scenes work and the Private View.

Throughout the show a darting swift entertained and alarmed us but happily escaped at the end when the crowds were gone, the lights out and front doors wide open....

But the biggest applause goes to those who submitted their work: sculpture; painting; photography; drawing; print and textiles. Lots of sales and debate which all make the Avening Art Show a must-see and we look forward to welcoming you next year in 2027!

*Liz Bury*

## Our Fabulous Fete – THANK YOU!



A BIG thank you to all of you out there who donated raffle prizes, donated cash to help cover raffle costs and to those of you who forked out a fiver (or more) for the raffle tickets themselves.

Whilst we are at it, also to those who helped with the tents and tables, set up stuff, organised & cash floats, mowed lawns (didn't you think the churchyard and surrounds looked fab on the day? – that's Steve's work), operated stalls, counted money, cleared up, cleaned, hauled, sorted and generally arranged

and mopped up for the fete. And that's only half of it: the ART SHOW. Absolutely astounding for a small village. It doesn't come without much effort, sweat and tears (yes, there were some of those too).

Thank you. You know who you are.

And of course to all those who came to the fete itself and munched burgers, bought plants, checked out the art show, savoured an ice cream, found a little something at the brick-a-brac, hooked a duck from a bucket, nattered to a neighbour, won a coconut, cheered at the dog show, urged a duck along at the stream, enjoyed tea and cake in the hall, etc.

It made for a great community event that we clearly all enjoyed.\*\* Oh, and it raised just over £3,000 (actual amount being finalised) for our 1,000-year-old church.

Thanks again.

***Stephanie Hamilton, Steve Uzzell, Nick Winkfield & Fete Team***

\*\* Want to enjoy it again? Want to get involved with the next one in 2 years' time? We need new, younger people full of energy & ideas who want to contribute to village life to take over from us oldies to prevent this wonderful event from fading. What you put in, you generally get out. Contact one of us now whilst fresh in your mind.





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## How do I know if solar is right for my home?

It's the question I get more than any other. And honestly, you can get a pretty good sense of it yourself before you ever speak to an installer.

Start with your roof. Pop outside and have a proper look. Which way does the main pitch face? South is best, but east and west still get you around 80% of what a south-facing roof would produce, so they're well worth considering. North-facing on its own usually isn't. Then check for shade. A tree, chimney, or neighbour's gable casting shadow will eat into output. Light shade is manageable these days with optimisers, little gadgets that stop one shaded panel dragging the rest down.

Next, size. For six panels in two rows of three (roughly where solar starts making real sense), you need a clear roof area of about 4 metres by 4 metres. Bigger systems usually pay back faster per pound spent, and panels can be split across two roofs if that suits your home better.

Then dig out a recent electricity bill and find your annual usage in kWh. A typical UK home uses around 2,700 kWh a year. If you're well below that, say under 2,000, the payback gets longer because you'll export more than you use, unless you add a battery. If you're at 3,000 or above (most family homes, especially with an EV or heat pump on the way), the maths gets interesting quickly.

You'll save more if you use more of the energy yourself, so daytime usage helps. That said, batteries have come down a lot in price recently, which means you can store the energy from the day and use it in the evening.

The amount of sun you get also matters. Down here in the south Cotswolds, solar irradiance is genuinely good. We're far enough south in the UK that a well-placed roof will generate plenty over the year. It's not the Costa del Sol, but it's not Aberdeen either. When you do speak to installers, the main thing to ask is what you'll actually save each year, and therefore how long the system will take to pay back. A decent installer will give you a fairly accurate number based on your specific roof and your bills. And it's fine to say no. If something feels rushed, walk away.

A bit of looking around your roof, ten minutes with a bill, and a few sensible questions will get you most of the way there.

*Llewellyn Kinch – Director – MakeMyHouseGreen.com*

MakeMyHouseGreen is partnering with Cotswold District Council's Home Solar Scheme

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# Avening Playgroup

It was lovely to see so many people at the Church Fete and thank you to everyone who visited the bouncy castle and the coconut shy. The looks on everyone's faces, determined to win a coconut, were brilliant. A big thank you to Steph and the team for organising everything. I think a good day was had by all!

Since the half term break, we have been busy looking at the following topics:

**Colours** – lots of colour mixing, colour matching, making rainbows, gloop, painting and rice play.

**Life cycle of a butterfly** – making butterfly symmetry paintings, butterfly collages, the story of 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'.

**Sports/Father's Day** – Practicing our racing skills for the school sports day, lots of throwing, catching and kicking activities. Drawing something special for Father's Day.

The children have also enjoyed lots of water play, especially with the warmer weather and have also engaged in lots of role play in the mud kitchen area.



Don't forget, our Stay & Play sessions on Thursdays between 9.30 and 11.00 am. Only £3 per child and £1.50 per additional child. We hope to run a couple of these sessions during the summer holidays. We will try to work out some dates and post them on our Facebook page.

Places are filling up quickly for September 2026, so if you would like to register your child or to book a time to come and have a look around, please call Angie on 01453 832695 or [emailaveningplaygroup@gmail.com](mailto:emailaveningplaygroup@gmail.com)

*Angie Heslop*

## Avening Village Notice Board

The village notice board, on the side of the Memorial Hall, is a good way of publicising village events and items of local information. Posters, ideally size A4 or A5, can be put up for you on this board. They can be delivered to John and Sandra Hetterley, 2, Orchard Field or given to them directly. They will be taken down once they are out of date. Other posters may be removed and recycled once they are faded or to make space for others.

# Letter to the Editors

Dear Editors

Cotswold Woolgatherers, the local team of spinners and knitters, have retained their second place in the International Back to Back challenge on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June, for the second year.

We completed our sweater in 8 hours 54minutes - more than an hour faster than our 2025 time. The fastest team, from NSW Australia, won in 7hours 21minutes.


Thank you to Avening friends who came to support us on the day.

*Elizabeth Oliver*

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## New Term 'To Do' List

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

Laptop? > get necessary equipment!

**ACEEF!\***

\*The Avening Church of England Education Fund have the means to financially support the education of Avening residents up to age 25. To apply for a grant please contact 01453 833016 or email [buchanan.el@gmail.com](mailto:buchanan.el@gmail.com)

**Have a look at the new website for the Avening Church of England Education Fund!**  
**You will find information on the charity and what the grants include (and what is not included) at [www.aceef.org.uk](http://www.aceef.org.uk)**



- July 2** **National Theatre Live:** Les Liaisons Dangereuses is a striking new staging of Christopher Hampton's celebrated adaptation of the classic novel starring Aiden Turner and Lesley Manville. Tickets in advance £15. 7pm
- July 5** **Ryan Wang Piano Concert:** Winner of the BBC Young Musician in 2024 Wang will tonight be playing works by Mozart and Schubert and Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition. Tickets in advance £30. 7.30pm
- July 11** **Don Quixote (is a very big book):** A one-man show where Dik Downey weaves together the crazed delusion of Don Quixote with his own struggles with reality. Tickets in advance £15. 8pm
- July 17** **Forever Springsteen:** Formed last summer by a long-time group of friends this tribute band aims to protect the energy, musicianship and true spirit of The Boss's music. Tickets in advance £25. 7.30pm
- August 8** **Rupert Egerton-Smith Piano Concert:** Starting out as a strategy consultant Rupert left the corporate world in 2020 to build up a career as composer and pianist – an ambition he has clearly achieved! Tickets in advance £20. 7.30
- August 15** **The Festival Players Comedy of Errors:** This open-air play is one of Shakespeare's shortest and most farcical comedies. Bring a cushion and a picnic but indoors if wet! Tickets in advance £18(U18£12). 2pm/6.30pm.

**For more details of our other events including film, talks, exhibitions, and afternoon tea concerts and to book tickets visit our website:**

**[www.tetburygoodsshed.co.uk](http://www.tetburygoodsshed.co.uk)**

## **Avening in 1955**

I came to live in Avening as a newly wed late in 1955, the village was much smaller then but self-sufficient. There was a Garage, Coal Merchant, Bakery, Post Office, three shops, Public Houses and we even had a Police Station, with a resident bobby!

There were also local farms, one Dairy which kept us supplied with fresh milk, delivered daily, (in a glass bottle).

Lawrence Road, Sunground and Sandford Leaze were all fields for grazing, including Marshall May stables and the High Street was much narrower than it is now. The village has grown much bigger, over time, but it's a shame all our amenities have gone.

***Mrs June Hopes***

# Avening WI



Summer is always a particularly busy time for AWI and this year is no exception. It was great to see so many people at the Church Fete; we actually sold out of cream teas and cakes!

The visit to the Special Plants Nursery at Cold Aston was a great success in spite of the rain! The garden showcases a collection of unusual plants from all over the world, including an amazing range of hardy herbaceous and rockery plants as well as many tender perennials for terrace and conservatory. After a guided tour of the garden members enjoyed

tea and cake and an opportunity to buy plants.

The friendly skittles match against Stonehouse WI at the Social Club was a fun evening with a friendly group of ladies who won by a short margin.

Congratulations to our Quiz team who came third in the first round of the WI County Quiz, and are now through to the final in July.

The rain stopped just in time for a small group of the walkers to enjoy exploring the back lanes of Burleigh, through to Besbury Common, followed by a lunch at The Old Lodge. The group walking the Wysis Way completed the second stage of eight miles through the Forest of Dean enjoying lovely, far reaching views and beautiful woodland scenery.

A few years ago AWI made bunting to decorate Cherington Village Hall and we received a request from their committee to make some new curtains. All fabric and other materials were supplied, and all that was needed were some capable hands and a few hours of our time. A small group armed with sewing machines, ironing boards, irons and sewing equipment, spent a morning in the hall making 13 lined curtains. Workshops are always enjoyable, spending time chatting with friends while engaged in making something, and the lunch provided by the hall committee was delicious.



We are looking forward to hosting Tetbury and Kemble WIs' at our Group Meeting. This year our theme is 'A celebration of Poetry'. The guest speaker will be a comedy poet; there will be group and individual competitions and a three course supper.

The speaker at our June meeting was Helen Plumb talking about 'Glorious Coloured Gemstones'. Helen gave an inspiring talk about her career as a geologist and gemologist, whose love of gems resulted in her eventually opening her own business in Winchcombe,

sourcing gems from all over the world and making jewellery.

Our president Gwyneth presented a cheque for £150 to Rob from Guideposts, Stroud. This was the profit raised at our recent village quiz.

The speaker at our July monthly meeting will be Katy Peake talking about 'The Wye Valley Tour'. We meet at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall on the second Thursday of the month. Visitors and prospective members are very welcome to attend.

For more information about Avening WI please contact our secretary Helen at [aveningwi@gmail.com](mailto:aveningwi@gmail.com) or 01453 835484 or look at our facebook page.

**Bridget Seward**

## Worried About Money After Injury?



**Q:** *I've recently had to give up work due to a back injury, and I'm worried about how I'm going to cope with the drop in income. I'm not sure what benefits I can get - where should I start?*

**A:** Lots of people miss out on benefits they're entitled to, so it's definitely worth checking what you can get. Claiming benefits can also give you **access** to other financial help like cost-of-living payments and discounts on energy and transport, which can make a real difference when money is tight.

A good place to start is by using an **online benefits calculator**. To get the most accurate answer, you'll need details about your savings, income, pension, childcare payments and any existing benefits for you and your partner, if you have one. You can use the Entitled to benefits calculator or check out the Policy in Practice version for a more detailed overview. The Turn2us online tool can also provide a quick idea of what benefits and other financial help you might be eligible for.

The main benefit for most working-age people is **Universal Credit**. You should check if you can claim if you're over 18 and under State Pension age, and if you have less than £16,000 in savings or investments. If your injury makes it difficult to work, you might get more Universal Credit or not have to look for work. You'll need to inform the Department for Work and Pensions that you have a health condition when you claim, and, if possible, provide a fit note.

You might also be entitled to **other benefits** depending on your situation, such as your age, whether you're disabled, or if you have children. Some people are able to claim more than one benefit – for example, disability benefits such as Personal Independence Payment (if you're under pension age), Attendance Allowance (if you're over pension age), Employment and Support Allowance, or help with council tax. If you're struggling, you may be able to access extra support from your council or charities. If you're unsure, **Citizens Advice** offers **free support** to help you find a way forward.

Citizens Advice helps with a range of issues. For information and self-help guidance, visit [citizensadvice.org.uk](http://citizensadvice.org.uk). To speak to a local adviser in the Stroud and Cotswold Districts, visit [citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk](http://citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk) to complete our **webform** or call us on **0808 800 0510**



# Letter from Roz Savage MP



July in Avening is always a beautiful part of the South Cotswolds. The village sits in a fold of the Cotswold escarpment in a way that feels almost deliberately hidden. The kind of place that rewards the people who know it, and that makes the job of looking after it feel genuinely important.

Avening sits within the Cotswolds National Landscape, and that designation matters. It is not simply a label; it is recognition that this is a place of exceptional character, where the relationship between the built environment, the farmland, and the natural world has been shaped over centuries and deserves to be treated with care. One of the things I have been pressing for in Parliament, through my work on the Environmental Audit Select Committee, is that nature recovery strategies mean something in practice. Not just targets on paper, but real, measurable improvement in the health of the landscape, the hedgerows, the field margins, and the small watercourses that run through villages like this one. The streams and ditches around Avening feed ultimately into the Bristol Avon, and their quality reflects what is happening to the land and the infrastructure around them. I will keep scrutinising the Government's record and pressing for stronger action.

Road safety is another issue I hear about consistently from residents in villages along the B4014 and the lanes around Avening. The speed at which some vehicles travel through small villages is a persistent concern; one that local people raise with me regularly and that can feel impossible to get anyone in authority to take seriously. I do take it seriously, and I am pursuing casework on road safety in this part of the constituency. If you have a specific concern about a road near you, please do get in touch and I will do what I can to raise it with the relevant highways authority.

Healthcare access is felt acutely here too. Avening residents depend on practices in Tetbury and further afield, and with the pressures facing rural GP surgeries showing no sign of easing, I have been pressing the Government consistently on what it will do to ensure that rural communities are not left behind. The same is true of the proposals affecting Cirencester Hospital, a facility that serves a wide area of the Cotswolds and whose future I am fighting to protect.

One of the things that strikes me most about representing a constituency like this one is how much people care about where they live, not passively, but actively. They know their landscape and they want to be heard. That is exactly the kind of community I want to represent. If you have a concern to raise or simply want to say hello, please do come to one of my surgeries or get in touch directly.

Warm wishes,

**Roz Savage MP, South Cotswolds**

*Email: [roz.savage.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:roz.savage.mp@parliament.uk) | Call: 01285 300555*

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# Avening Parish Council



## Parish Council Vacancy

A vacancy has arisen on the Parish Council. If you are interested in participating in the running of the village, please contact the Clerk for further information.

## Playing Field

An adder has been spotted in the playing field. They are a very timid creature and only bite if handled or stood on. Adders are highly protected in the UK. Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, it is a criminal offence to intentionally kill, injure, harm, or sell a native adder. If you see one, please walk around it and put your dog on a lead.

## Roads and Footpaths

Please report any issues on the footpaths or the roads, on Fix My Street. This is the quickest way to get highways to send an inspection team <https://fixmystreet.gloucestershire.gov.uk> If it is an emergency, please call 08000 514 514.

## Planning Applications & Tree Works Since the Last Issue and Parish Councils Decision

### New Planning Applications

June 202626/01615/FUL: Brandhouse Farm West End. Renovation of existing building for horticultural and storage use. No Comment

### CDC Planning Correspondence and Decisions

26/01355/TCONR: 9 High Street T1, T2, T3 & T4 Lawson Cypress - removal of trees - impact to light in the garden T5 & T6 Lawson Cypress- reduce - impact to light in the garden - No Objections

Appeal Decision: 25/01259/FUL: 12 Star Lane – Proposed erection of dwelling. Appeal Dismissed.

### Dog Fouling

If you witness dog fouling not being picked up by the owner, please report by following this link: <https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/environment/litter-street-cleaning-and-dog-fouling/>

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

*The Agenda and minutes of the last parish council meeting can be viewed at [www.avening-pc.gov.uk](http://www.avening-pc.gov.uk). The Parish Clerk can be contacted via email: [parishclerk@avening-pc.gov.uk](mailto:parishclerk@avening-pc.gov.uk)*

## Letter from Chairman of Avening Parish Council



There is no letter from Patrick Mulligan this month. Patrick can be contacted on **Tel 07713 068436**

# PLEASE VOTE!

## for Friends of Avening School

UNTIL 31ST JULY AT TETBURY TESCO

Avening Primary School has been selected for the **Tesco Stronger Starts** grant programme, where we will be in with a chance of receiving up to £1500.

Our **Seed-to-Plate** project aims to teach children where food comes from by planting, nurturing and harvesting.

To vote, simply make a purchase of any value at the Tetbury Tesco store. You will receive one blue token per transaction.



Vote for us at Tetbury Tesco  
from 28th April until 31st July

# Regular Activities in the Villages

Would organisers please let us know if there are any changes or additions to these events

Event	Day	Time	Where	Contact
Avening Silver Band	Monday	7.00-9.00pm	Memorial Hall	<a href="mailto:aveningsilverband@gmail.com">aveningsilverband@gmail.com</a>
Avening Church bell ringing	Monday	7.30-9.00pm	Church bell tower	Andrew Lelliott 07726 345516
Community Café	Tuesday	9.00am - noon	Social Club	Gill Adams 07826 291759
Mobile Post Office	Tuesday	9.30-11.30am	Social Club car park	
Cherington PC	Tuesday bi-monthly	6.00pm	Cherington Village hall	Babs Malony 07958116794
Line Dancing	Tuesday	8.00 - 9.30 pm	Social Club	Social Club 01453 833760
Avening Churchyard tidy up	Wednesday	6.00 - 7.00pm	Holy Cross churchyard	Churchwardens
Avening PC	2nd Wednesday each month	7.30pm	Memorial Hall	Shani Baker 07415 039234
Avening Cinema Club	Last Wednesday each month	7.30pm	Memorial Hall	aveningcinemaclub@gmail.com
Avening W.I.	2nd Thursday each month	7.30pm	Social Club/ Memorial Hall	Liz 01453 833803
Fledglings for pre-schoolers	Fridays during term time	2.00 - 3.00pm	School Garden	Avening School
Fun Skittles	Last Saturday each month	7.30	Social Club	
KNEAD Mobile Bakery	Last Saturday each month	9.45 - 10.30am	Memorial Hall	
Charity Quiz	1st Saturday each month	8.00pm	The Bell	
Avening Singers	Sunday	4.00pm	tba	Derrick Pierce 01453 835090

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