

A photograph of a winter landscape. A narrow path covered in snow leads through a line of trees. The trees have bare branches and some brown leaves, suggesting a late autumn or early winter setting. The sky is a pale, overcast blue.

The Villager

**A Magazine for Avening,
Cherington and Nags Head**

**December 2023/
January 2024**

editors@villagemag.online



Richard Murray



Liane Wheeler



Raph Arwas



Annabel Crapper



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December 2023

As ever, the Christmas season is looking to be jam-packed with fun festive events, starting with the Friends of Avening School and Avening Playgroup Christmas Market on 2nd December, where we understand that a very special guest may make an appearance..... On the same day there is the Christingle service in Cherington and the lighting of the tree. Then there are all the Christmas festivities at the school, including some exciting-sounding plays, the popular service of nine lessons and carols at both Cherington and Avening churches and a nativity service specially aimed at the children on Christmas Eve; not forgetting festive events at the WI, the Café and some carol singing in the Bell. And that's before we even get to New Year!

We would love to hear what you have been up to over the festive season, and please remember to take some photos of all these events and send them to us. We all love to think of Christmas and New Year frolics when we are struggling with the cold and darkness of February (which is also a reminder that this edition of the Villager also covers January, so your next issue of the Villager will not arrive through your letterbox until 1st February (we know - how will you cope??)).

The Editors would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support, articles and photos over the last year and wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy, prosperous and peaceful New Year.

The Villager Editors

The Villager Magazine

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Photographs in The Villager Magazine

Many thanks to **Roger Lindley** for this great photo of the snowy 'sunken lane'. Please keep sending us your photographs, especially since all the images will be in colour in the downloadable version of the Magazine.

editors@villagemag.online

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

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VILLAGE & AREA WEB SITES

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

Cherington Parish Council: cheringtonpc.org.uk.

Cherington Village: www.cheringtonvillage.co.uk

Cotswold District Council: www.cotswold.gov.uk

Facebook: Avening Instagram: #aveningvillage

Avening and Cherington Events

Come along and join in the fun at any of the regular or special events below - everyone is always welcome!

Both the Memorial Hall & Social Club can also be hired for private functions

Date	Event	Location	Time
Friday 1st December	Winter Fun Skittles	Avening Social Club	7.30om
Saturday 2nd December	Christingle Service and Christmas Tree Lighting	Cherington Church	5pm
Saturday 2nd December	Friends of Avening School Christmas Market	Avening Memorial Hall and School grounds	12-3pm
Tuesday 5th, 12th, 19th December	Youth Club	Avening Memorial Hall	6.30—8.00pm
Tuesday 5th, 12th, 19th December	Community Café	Avening Social Club	9am—12 noon
Sunday 17th December	Service of Nine Lessons and Carols	Cherington Church Avening Church	5pm 7pm
Wednesday 20th December	Carol Singing	The Bell	8pm
Sunday 24th December	Children's Nativity	Avening Church	4pm
Tuesday 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th January	Community Café	Avening Social Club	9am—12 noon
Friday 6th January	Winter Fun Skittles	Avening Social Club	7.30om
Tuesday 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th January	Youth Club	Avening Memorial Hall	6.30—8.00pm
Wednesday 31st January	Avening Cinema club (note: no screening in December)	Avening Memorial Hall	7.30pm

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Avening and Cherington Churches

Our lives are full of plans and events as we approach the Christmas season. In the Christmas story, too, there was a cascade of events which overtook the world all those years ago, before the birth of Christ. In Avening church, that story is told through the beautiful service of Lessons and Carols, beginning at 7pm on Sunday December 17th.

The children of Avening will retell the story of the nativity in the church at 4pm on Christmas Eve, adding one character after another until the pageant is displayed for us all. Do arrive early to help dress the children who would like to take part. Everyone is welcome.

Later that night, Midnight Mass will begin at 11:30, led by Rev. John Ansell, who has been a regular supporter through the past couple of years.

On Christmas Morning Rev Stephen Jarvis will celebrate the service with us at 10am- a joyful, easygoing service. Last year, it took 2 children to carry in the enormous Christmas Cracker..

In the quiet period after Christmas, there will be a Benefice Service on Sunday December 31st in Minchinhampton Church. This is a happy occasion to worship with others in the area. Coffee and biscuits will be served after the service and we are all welcome.

May the joy of the season surround us all .

Elizabeth and Stephanie, Church Wardens

Letter from Local Food Bank after the Harvest Festival Collection:

Dear Holy Cross Avening,

I am writing on behalf of the Foodbank to thank you for your generous donation in October of 43.4 kg of food and essentials that will help families in crisis in the southern area of the Cotswold District, which includes Cirencester, Tetbury, Fairford, Lechlade and the surrounding villages. Your support has ensured that all those referred to us are supplied with food and other essentials, providing much-needed help during this challenging period. Thank you so much!

Harvest donations started to pour into the foodbank during September and October and, due to the slightly later school half-term, some were still expected to arrive in November. Once again, we were so grateful for the support provided which saw donation levels almost reach our record levels in 2022 (only being 6% lower).

We recently released our six-month parcel figures (for 1st April – 30th September 2023) which showed we had our busiest summer period ever, outside of the pandemic, with 2,376 food parcels provided. Sadly, even more people were needing to use the service of the foodbank with 146 households having been forced to turn to Cirencester food bank for the first time. Your support ensures we can continue to provide local people with the help they need, along with support to address the issues they are facing that have led them into food hardship.

Thank you so much!

Anton Wynn, Head of Cirencester Foodbank

Church Services

Date	Holy Cross, Avening	St. Nicholas, Cherington
2 nd Dec. 5.00pm.		Christingle Service
3 rd Dec. 10.00am	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion
10 th Dec. 10.00 am	Holy Communion	No Service
17 th Dec. Note times	7.00pm. Carols and Lessons	5.00pm. Carols and Lessons
24 th Dec. Note times	4.00pm Nativity service 11.30 pm. Midnight Eucharist	10.00 pm. Midnight Eucharist
25 th Dec. 10.00am	Christmas day Eucharist	Christmas day family service
31 st December 10.00am	Benefice Service Holy Communion in Minchinhampton	
7 th January 10.00am	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion
14 th January 10.00am	Holy Communion	No Service
21 st January 10.00am	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion
28 th January 10.00am	Holy Communion	No Service
4 th February 10.00am	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion

Donations to Avening Church



We have set up a QR code which if scanned with your smart phone will enable you to make a donation to Avening Church of any amount that you are able to. You then just feed into your phone your card details and the money will be transferred to our bank account. If you are an income tax payer you will also be given the opportunity to gift aid your donation.

Letter from Chairman of Avening Parish Council



The run up to Christmas is here, together with the associated chaos and stress; more so if you're a last minute shopper like me. Christmas Eve shopping – always a challenge! Thank heavens for Father Christmas, he always delivers.

I must start by saying how pleasing it was that the Remembrance Sunday service was very well attended. The wreath laying ceremony gives both local groups such as the W.I. and Avening School as well as individuals the opportunity to lay their wreaths in memory of those past villagers, relatives or friends who have given their lives in the cause of the freedoms we enjoy. The Avening Silver Band provided the music for the service including the sounding of the Last Post. A special mention for the Tetbury Air Cadets who once again gave their time to add a military gravitas to a moving occasion.

Villager of the Year

The title suggests that it reflects the contribution to Avening Village life made by someone over the last year; but so often it reflects the contribution made over a longer period and this year's winner is no exception. I am really delighted to announce that this year's winner is Frances Conway. Frances, together with her husband Dominic, has recently moved to the metropolis of Tetbury; but I'm sure her heart is still in Avening. Amongst her other contributions to Avening life, Frances has been heavily involved for over 10 years in the editing and publication of The Villager magazine – thank you Frances for your sustained enthusiasm and involvement.

Memorial Hall

The Management Committee are investigating upgrades to the video and sound system in the Hall. The existing systems are showing signs of 'wear and tear' and it is the intention to update the equipment to enhance the experience of the hall users especially the School and the Film Club.

Once again, I must pass on our thanks to all the villagers who have hired the Hall in recent times for their diligence in leaving the venue in a tidy and clean condition. Thank you.

Avening Parish Councillor

We still need an additional Parish Councillor – if you are interested, please contact myself or the Parish Clerk. The position comes with no pay and often little appreciation – but it does offer some inner satisfaction of having contributed to Avening's preservation and its future.

Lastly, again a reminder, that as the shorter days arrive and temperatures drop; please be alert for neighbours who may be vulnerable and need some help.

Keep safe.

Patrick Mulligan (Mob: 07713 068436)
Chairman of Avening Parish Council

Cas Boddam-Whetham MCSP RCT SIRPA Practitioner

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Puzzle Corner

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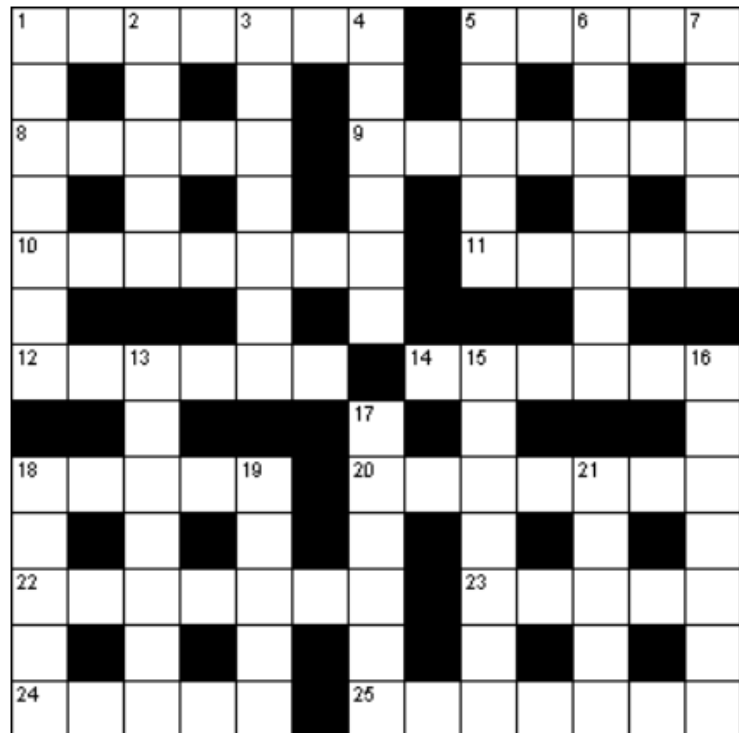
Sudoku

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 35

Across

- 1 Leaf vegetable (7)
- 5 Floribundas, hybrid teas, etc. (5)
- 8 Carmen, for example (5)
- 9 Gin and vermouth cocktail (7)
- 10 Result (7)
- 11 In music, slow and dignified (5)
- 12 Terminate (6)
- 14 Almost unconscious state (6)
- 18 Steady, sober (5)
- 20 Accelerate (5,2)
- 22 Dorset resort (7)
- 23 Fleshy parts of ears (5)
- 24 Furious (5)
- 25 Opposer of technology (7)



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Down

- 1 Behave ostentatiously (4,3)
- 2 Incompetent (5)
- 3 Perplexed (2,1,4)
- 4 Picnic basket (6)
- 5 Of the country (5)
- 6 Rider's footrest (7)
- 7 Irish county (5)
- 13 North American falls (7)
- 15 Increased threefold (7)
- 16 Quick sharp reply (7)
- 17 Also (2,4)
- 18 Japanese cold rice dish (5)
- 19 Male duck (5)
- 21 One of the United Arab Emirates (5)

Gilian's Poem of the Month

The Christmas Star

High in the midnight sky of sparkling blue,
The brightest star shines down to light the road
Where weary, droop-eared donkey trudges on,
Carrying Mary, with her precious load.

Joseph leads onwards to a wayside inn,
Hoping for shelter, food, and peaceful rest,
But, "No room here" the landlord loudly cries,
"There is the stable there, but that's the best".

The star above now lights the lowly stall,
Where Mary's baby boy is safely born,
And donkey, cattle, sheep all gather round
To greet the little child on Christmas morn.

Mary cradles her baby in gentle arms,
While Joseph stands by them, full of tender love,
And the stable is bright with the light of hope and joy,
While the star shines on in the depthless sky above.

That same star beckons now from eastern skies,
Calling to shepherds, watching through the night,
Keeping their vigil o'er their bleating flocks,
But they quake in fear at the wondrous sight
As an angel, clad in shining robes appears,
Bidding them follow the path of the guiding star,
Leaving their flocks behind to journey forth,
And find that new-born child in lands afar.....

That brightest star now shines on three wise kings,
Travelling east in robes so rich and rare,
As they seek that distant, lowly, stable room,
And the new-born, baby boy a- sleeping there.

They carry gifts to give that little child,
Gold, frankincense, and myrrh they bring for him,
Coming to kneel in reverence and awe
At the crib of the baby destined to be king.....

At last the star has come to shine on high
Over the stable where Mary and Joseph stay,
Watching their little baby, Jesus Christ,
As he lies contented in his bed of hay.

Shepherds and kings all worship at his crib,
All come to greet that holy child, their king,
While high above that humble stable room,
The blessed angels hover as they sing.....

And now, at midnight, every Christmas Eve,
All creatures kneel to honour that holy birth,
And the star of the Nativity still shines
In the span less sky high up above the earth.

Gilian Bulmer-Davison



Avening School

It's beginning to look a lot like.....

.....**Christmas**, here at Avening School! The decorations have been pulled out of storage, the festive books are on display in the library and the rehearsals have begun for the Christmas productions. This year, the KS2 pupils will be retelling the story of Aladdin with their performance of 'A'lad'in Trouble'. Meanwhile, our reception and KS1 children will be wowing their audiences with their take on the Nativity as they perform 'A Noisy Nativity'.

This term has been action packed for every class with trips, visitors, sports events and fundraising events. We have had the second of our open mornings with our school councillors and house captains running school tours for current and prospective parents and children. The School Council have also organised a house singing event during Anti-Bullying Week; led the laying of crosses during our Remembrance Service and raised nearly £100 for new playground equipment by organising a school bake sale.

Engineering has been a focus for the Owls Class (y5/6) who took part in a K'Nex Challenge and a Lego STEM workshop. Following a visit from art teacher Mrs Gibbons from Malmesbury School last term, the class were delighted with a delivery of their ceramic work after it was fired in the school kiln.

The children in the Eagles class (reception) were excited to go on their first school trip a few weeks ago when they pulled on their wellies and raincoats and travelled to Westonbirt Arboretum in search of the Gruffalo. 'Why didn't you know? There's no such thing as a Gruffalo!'

Our KS2 pupils have been spoilt with choice for extracurricular clubs this term, with the options ranging from board games clubs to STEM to Football to Hocke - and that's just mentioning a few.

There has been plenty of sporting activity lately with tournaments and fixtures happening regularly. Two weeks ago, our Football Superstars brought back the winning trophy when they were victorious at the Cirencester Primary 2023 7-a-side Football Tournament. We were especially proud of their wonderful teamwork and sporting attitude throughout.

As we get closer to the end of term, we have plenty of festive treats to look forward to in school. We have the FOAS and Avening Playgroup Christmas market on Saturday 2nd December; our in-school Secret Santa where children choose and wrap a present for a loved one; SWR carol concert; Nine Lessons and Carols in the Church and class Christmas Parties on the last day of term.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and look forward to reporting again in the New Year.

Alex Adcock

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



THE COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS IN CHERINGTON



Saturday 2nd December

Christingle Service at 5pm in the Church

Families and friends, all welcome

Followed by a torchlight stroll to the Village Green for the lighting of
the Trees.

To end the evening there are Festive drinks in the Village Hall.

Please join us to start the Cherington Christmas!

Carol Singing in The Bell

Wednesday 20th December

8pm onwards

Get ready for Christmas by
joining the Avening Singers for
a singalong of Christmas carols
and songs in The Bell. All
welcome!



Obituary

Nicholas Barton

1955 — 2023



Nicholas Barton was born in 1935 in London. During World War II he was evacuated to Swinderby in Lincolnshire, staying at the station-master's house near the Lancaster bomber base where his father was posted.

Returning to London after the war, he went to Westminster School. His father encouraged him to take up rowing - he was cox of the Westminster Eight. His true love was cricket, however, and he could often be found watching Dennis Compton at Lords. As a senior boy at Westminster, he was present at the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth. Seven years later, at the wedding of Princess Margaret, he was not invited - but still managed to attend by evading security, getting in through a back route at the school. He told these stories in *The Villager* a few years ago.

In 1953 he went up to Cambridge to study medicine. It was as a young doctor in London that he met his wife Margaret. She described him later as "a walking encyclopaedia, with boundless curiosity, who reads constantly".

They were married in 1960, but having a young family and being a junior doctor didn't fully occupy him. He wrote a book on "The Lost Rivers Of London" (https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1751730.The_Lost_Rivers_of_London). It has been republished twice and is still considered the definitive study of London's rivers.

As a junior doctor he rotated rapidly through hospitals in Newcastle, Aberdeen,

Oswestry, and Stoke-On-Trent. In 1968 he was awarded a fellowship from the Harkness Foundation, taking his young family to Los Angeles where he studied orthopaedics. He became a consultant in Nottingham in 1971, where he and Margaret brought up their five children.

Now specialising in hand surgery, his written output was prodigious: over a hundred publications, and seminal books on fractures of the hand and the scaphoid bone. He became Chairman of the British Orthopaedic Association's Education Committee; President of the British Society for Surgery of the Hand; and Editor of the Journal of Hand Surgery. He delivered prestigious medical lectures such as the Hunterian, the Bradford Eaton, and the Pulvertaft.

As his reputation grew, he was much in demand as a speaker on hand surgery at international conferences. He would often take Margaret with him, and he wrote up detailed accounts of these trips: 60 diaries covering 2,000 pages.

When he retired, he and Margaret moved to the Cotswolds. His last twenty five years were spent in Avening, with his favourite things: his books and his wife.



Avening Youth Club



DOOR
AVENING YOUTH CLUB
NEEDS VOLUNTEERS!

CONTACT INFO@THEDOOR.ORG.UK TO FIND OUT MORE

A promotional poster for the Avening Youth Club. It features the 'The Door' logo at the top, followed by the text 'AVENING YOUTH CLUB NEEDS VOLUNTEERS!' in large white letters on a dark background. Below this is a photograph of several children in a large, well-lit hall with wooden floors, some appearing to be in a physical education or dance class. At the bottom of the poster is an orange banner with the contact information 'CONTACT INFO@THEDOOR.ORG.UK TO FIND OUT MORE' in white text.

The Youth Club is held every Tuesday in term time **6.30-8pm** in the Memorial Hall.

All children aged 8 to 14 are welcome and there is **NO CHARGE!**

Farm Life

As this is the last 'Villager' magazine of the year, I thought I would give an insight to our farming year with a view to carrying on writing a column each month going forward into 2024.

2023 has been a rather challenging year for agriculture in general, with it being much wetter than we would have liked. This has meant our feed has been much more expensive to produce, having to make more silage than hay. Silage can be made in a couple of days, rather than having to wait for a week of sunny weather to make hay... which didn't come! The extra wet year did, however, lend itself to good grass growing conditions which has meant our pastures have remained green and full of lovely grass – much appreciated by our cattle!

This year we felt it was very important to tell our story about why we farm and how we do it. There is a drive in the agricultural industry for farms to showcase what they do, especially important for those of us farming rare-breeds and the need to tell their story too. With an increase in the use of our social media, such as Facebook and Instagram, we also set up a channel on YouTube called '*F L Powell & Sons Farming Diary*' where we are creating short videos explaining what we are up to on the farm.

Cattle

The start of 2023 began with calving for our breeding herd. We are pleased to say that all our lovely ladies produced healthy calves, with only one needing assistance from the vet. Unfortunately, this mum didn't take to her calf, so feeding by bottle twice a day was in order until she was fostered onto another mum. This little calf is very strong-willed and within a few weeks had been spotted taking milk from most of the mums in the field by sneaking in behind their own calf when suckling!



Calving this year has been spread out over a few months which isn't ideal as it makes more sense to have a tight 'block' of calving in the early part of the year. When it came for the mums to go back in calf recently, we worked with our vet to ensure that 2024 calving will be over just a couple of months by being very strict with our artificial insemination (AI) and letting cows that do not become pregnant to 'go round' until next year. Although this will be a very intense period of calving in spring 2024, it will mean that all the offspring will be similar age and the calving period will not impede on hay and silage making later on. We are very pleased to say that a good number of both our Hereford and rare breed Gloucester cattle are in-calf for spring 2024.

Chickens

If you follow our social media pages on Instagram and Facebook, you may have noticed that we now have chickens!

Back in the summer we decided that it would be good to provide our customers with farm produce alongside our beef. With the encouragement of my girlfriend Laura and with the very kind help of her brother Joe, my grandmother's old hen house was lovingly transformed into our movable eggmobile! By this, I mean the 50-bird hen house was restored and placed on our old bale trailer, so it can be moved around our herbal ley pastures, providing the hens with fresh free-range grazing every day. Our next task was to source the hens for this venture. It was deemed re-homing ex-caged hens to be the best thing to do. I applied to the British Hen Welfare Trust and when our system was approved, we were given the go-ahead to collect the hens. Armed with an array of cardboard boxes and dad's chicken carrier, we all descended on the collection centre, bringing back with us our flock of chickens and with that, giving them a life very different to what they were used to.



After a few weeks of settling into their new home, the hens are now fully accustomed to coming out in the morning and grazing the pastures of herbal ley. We move their pen every few days, give or take, and it really is great to see them display their natural instincts to graze and scratch the pastures as a hen should.

Honesty Shed

After a period of settling in, our hens are now producing lovely free-range eggs daily. This brought about the question of how to sell them. Our first thought was to place an honesty box on the road for people to buy eggs from, but after some thought we decided to turn our beef box storeroom into our 'Honesty Shed' situated next to the farm office in Star Lane. Our thinking was that not only could we sell our eggs from here, but we could also have a small freezer selling our beef (joints, mince, burgers and sausages) for customers that don't want a whole beef box. We also asked village producers if they would like to sell their products in there and I'm pleased to say we also now have Charcoal, Tea Towels and Honey... all produced in the village!

If you would like to sell something in our little farm Honesty Shed, please email: sam@flpowellandsons.com.

I would like to say a very big thank you to all our loyal customers for their support and custom this year and to those that have bought from our new honesty shed. I would also like to say thank you to those who are our eyes when out walking, letting me know about a cow calving to a gate accidentally left open and those that are commandeered to 'stand in a gap' when moving cows, it's very much appreciated.

From all of us here at F L Powell & Sons, we hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter!

Also subscribe to our YouTube Channel for farm diary videos: @flpowellandsons

Thelma Schoonmaker

We were truly honoured in November with our triple Oscar® winning neighbour Thelma Schoonmaker, presenting the classic film *Black Narcissus*, and providing us with her deep personal insight in its production by her late husband Michael Powell.

Thelma made herself fully available to talk to members of the audience and to a panel of young film enthusiasts during a question and answer session after the film, where she eloquently regaled anecdotes from her long connections with the likes of the great Martin Scorsese, and how she became such a successful film editor.

Readers may not be aware that Michael Powell lived in Avening for many years until his death in 1990, and is buried in our church yard – his headstone has the inscription ‘Film



Director and Optimist’. Thelma is still a regular visitor (and reader of our humble magazine) but is currently working on a major documentary about Michael’s life and works, which often takes her back to the States.



The Stoud Film Festival in conjunction with the BFI arranged the two showings which were well supported, and our thanks go out to the organisers.

Tony Slater

Church Floodlighting

Over the past month the church was lit on:

Wednesday 8th November

for Mrs Joyce Howell who passed away one year ago.

From children Nicky and Lisa and families.

Monday 20th November

for Emma Burry:

Happy Birthday to our amazing Mummy from Buddy and

Bonnie xxx



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.

Avening Christmas Market

Saturday 2nd December 2023

12pm to 3pm

Kids Zone
~ Santa's Grotto £3 ~
~ Games ~ Adopt-a-Teddy ~
~ Christmas Crafts ~

Shopping Stalls
~ Gifts ~ Craft ~
~ Christmas decorations ~
~ and more ~

Market Menu
~ Pulled Pork & Apple Sauce Rolls ~
~ Brie & Cranberry Panini ~
~ Mince Pies and more ~

Bar
~ Mulled Wine ~
~ Winter Pimm's ~
~ Bailey's Hot Chocolate ~

Avening Memorial Hall
& School Gardens

Entertainment
Avening Playgroups
AMAZING Raffle

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Home-Start Stroud and Gloucester is a local charity which provides friendship, practical and emotional support to families with young children within our communities. Parenting is not always easy, and to have the support from a trained volunteer is invaluable to many experiencing a difficult time in their lives.



Our next free volunteer training course starts in February 2024, so if you would like to start the New Year in a positive way, have 2-3 hours a week or even a month to spare, and could share with someone else your parenting experiences please get in touch.

Parent quote "Home-Start is a fantastic charity, was really there for me at times of need. The volunteers are well trained and are really handy to have around especially when your child has extra needs, sometimes that different face makes all the difference. Thank you very much!"

For more details and to apply, please see our website www.homestartsd.org or email: Enquiries@homestartsd.org or call the office 01453 297470.



Avening Playgroup

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

Autumn: We looked at the trees and talked about the changes, making handprints to use as leaves, cutting paper plates and painting them to make hedgehogs and conker rolling, which was lots of fun!

Halloween: We looked at the lifecycle of a pumpkin, dug the flesh out of some pumpkins, drew and painted spiders and pumpkins, and made pumpkin collages.

Bonfire Night: We made bright firework pictures using toilet rolls that had been cut at end and dipped into paint.

Remembrance Day: We talked about remembering the soldiers and why we wear poppies.

Diwali: We looked at books and talked about Diwali, each made a Diwali pot called a 'Diva', made Rangoli chalk patterns, Mehndi hand patterns and milk chocolate truffles.

All about me: We have been singing 'Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes', drawing faces and pictures of ourselves, painted ourselves, step by step, measured ourselves and completed body puzzles.

Over the next few weeks, we will be practising our cutting skills, looking at shapes and then we will be making lots of nice things for Christmas.

We are hoping to restart the Parent and Toddler Group on one afternoon each week, but first we need to know what interest there would be. Please email aveningplaygroup.chair@gmail.com to register your interest. We are also looking for a volunteer or group of volunteers to run this group on one afternoon each week during term time. If you are interested in doing this please send an email to the same address.

The last day of this term is Friday 22nd December and we look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 8th January 2024.

The staff, committee, children and the families at Avening Playgroup wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

If you have a child who will be turning 3 years old during the coming school year and you would like them to join our playgroup, please call us on 01453 832695 or email aveningplaygroup@gmail.com. We are open week day mornings during term time.



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District Councillor's Report



CDC: I had a thoroughly fascinating and informative tour of the Thamesdown recycling plant off the A419, which is where our kerbside recycling is taken for processing. There is always a good degree of scepticism from the public as to what happens to our carefully sorted recyclables, and the tour was arranged through CDC to show us that in reality 99.9% of what we put in our various bins is carefully packaged and re-used. The operation is very slick, with trucks being weighed on entry, and the various categories of plastic, card, glass, and food placed into large hoppers. The food is bulked up and taken to a plant in the Forest of Dean for composting – biogas is captured in that process and used to power generators. The Thamesdown plant is remarkably clean and non-smelly, and huge bales of the sorted recyclables are stacked around the site ready to be sold for re-use. It is interesting that the value of these raw materials varies considerably throughout the year depending on demand. The e-version of this update has some photos below, and they also appear on my Facebook page.



The October Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) committee received reports on The Community Safety Partnership (very worthwhile community activities); the Medium Term Budget Strategy (concerning); the Car Parking Strategy (a sensible exercise); and the Playing Pitch Strategy (I asked for it to include bowls in its scope as this was omitted).

An important decision is being considered at CDC later this month on the administration's plans to disassemble **Publica**. Publica is a not-for-profit service delivery company incorporated in 2017, owned by local councils (shareholders): Cheltenham Borough council, Cotswold District Council, and Forest of Dean District Council. The rationale is that services will be more agile, which will allow better service delivery and facilitate staff recruitment. Publica doesn't currently offer the Local Government Pension Scheme which has proved to be a barrier when recruiting staff – we will scrutinise the costs and business case for this very closely at O&S. There is complexity/uncertainty about staff pensions which needs to be explored further. There is more information on the CDC website.

The **Public Conveniences Review Group** is making good progress and is due to report in January. My colleagues and I have now visited all the conveniences in the district and have formed our initial views on their condition. I have now asked the managing contractors to undertake costings for various options of repair/refurbishment so that the review group can create a business case to take to CDC.

Avening & Cherington: The work around Ash Dieback has been causing significant

disruption in the area, with false 'road closed' signs being put in position when the road isn't closed. This happened at the Nailsworth end of the B4014, and again at Hampton Street in Tetbury. The latter led to the 69 bus route being cancelled, and caused havoc with users. I had to intervene via Highways to get them running again. I haven't yet had a response from the Highways Cabinet member at GCC in regard to improving the signage by adding notes to indicate where the road is ACTUALLY closed!

Other updates and information:

Customer Services Call Back Hours Reduced

From Wednesday 18th October Cotswold District Council's customer service telephone lines were reduced for a 'trial period' - they now close at 2 pm, Monday to Friday in order to save money. In-person services at the Trinity Road offices remain unaffected.

Waste Lorry Fire

A fire in the back of a bin lorry required a call out by the Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service, probably caused by a lithium-ion battery. This is becoming regular as more fires are starting in waste vehicles and at rubbish sorting facilities across the country. Disposable vapes are a well-known hazard as they have potential to ignite or explode if damaged by compacting equipment on the refuse lorries. Householders should keep batteries, or items containing a battery, out of rubbish and litter bins, and dispose of them responsibly. The best way to do this is through an in-store take-back scheme. By law, shops selling electrical and electronic items must offer a like-for-like take-back service. Residents can also recycle their old electrical and electronic items using the Council's fortnightly recycling service by popping them inside an old carrier bag, or smaller, and placing this inside either of their black kerbside recycling boxes ready for crews to collect.

*Tony Slater, CDC District Councillor,
representing Grumbold's Ash with Avening*
email: Tony.slater@cotswold.gov.uk Tel: 07793669930

	<h2>S Woodman Garden Services</h2> <p><i>General Gardening Grass Cutting ~ Hedge Cutting Tree Cutting ~ Fruit Tree Pruning General Ground Clearance Good Rates / O.A.P Discount</i></p> <p>Please Call: Home: 01453 834744 Mobile: 07814206803</p>	
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Avening WI

You might have seen groups of walkers around the village in mid October, when AWI were hosting GFWI County Walks. As members and visitors from around the county gathered in the Social Club for a short briefing about the three walks on offer, our catering team served hot drinks and biscuits; very welcome on the wet, grey day. The leaders assembled their groups and with the aim of showing our guests as much of Avening's lovely



Catering Team for GFWI walks

scenery and interesting history as possible, set off in different directions. The two mile walk was around the village, the four mile along the footpaths and lanes to the west and the six mile took in Steppes Lane, Nag's Head, the Roundabout, Cherington and back. As each group, of by now very wet walkers, returned to the Social Club they were welcomed into the warmth where they were served mugs of homemade soup, warm rolls and delicious cakes. Many of the visitors had never been to Avening and were amazed at the beauty of the surroundings.....even in the rain! They were very appreciative of the all that AWI had done to make their visit enjoyable.



Wendy's Group for the 4 mile walk

At our November meeting our speaker was Nick Brunger on 'Tricks of the Mind – A Journey into the Magical Art of Mindreading'. Nick entertained us with various intriguing tricks involving the audience and gave an insight into some of the methods used in mind-reading and their use in daily life. He concluded with six members choosing lottery numbers, and then presented AWI with a lottery ticket, already purchased, with those numbers on it. We won a very small prize!

At this meeting we collected donations of festive food for the Stroud Foodbank and small gifts and toys to be given as presents to the mothers and children at the Stroud Women's Refuge.

The Social club was packed for our Autumn quiz and thanks to the generosity of all those present we were able to donate £300 to Allsorts, Gloucestershire. Rosa Barratt from the charity told us about their work supporting the whole family of children with disabilities or additional needs.

Events in the calendar for the rest of November include: a walk around Besbury

Common followed by lunch at the Old Lodge; the final of the GFWI Skittles Plate Competition.

We always have enjoyable events planned for December and these start with a coach trip to Worcester and the Victorian Christmas Market. This year our Christmas lunch will be at The Crown in Minchinhampton. Then we have a wreath making workshop with a bring and share lunch. We round off another busy year with our Christmas party, enjoying light-hearted competitions and of course some tempting party food.



The Winning WI Quiz team: Louise Alder, Ken Stook and Sandra and John Hetterley

Meetings are held in the Memorial Hall at 7.30 and visitors and prospective members are always welcome. For more information please contact our secretary Helen at aveningwi@gmail.com or president Liz on 01453 833803

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How to Save Money on your Energy Bills

As people across Stroud and Cotswolds Districts face another winter of high energy bills, Citizens Advice shares how small changes can make a big difference when it comes to saving energy and lowering costs. The charity has teamed up with the Energy Saving Trust to share advice on getting help if you are struggling with energy bills and tips on how to cut energy costs around the home. People can make simple changes to save money on their energy bills and don't need to wait until the colder months to do so. These include:

- Washing clothes at 30°C could save around £15 per year - and reducing the number of wash cycles by one per week could save a further £15.
- Reducing shower time to four minutes could save a typical household as much as £75 a year.
- Swapping one bath a week for a four-minute shower could save an average of £17 a year.
- Avoiding overfilling the kettle could save around £12 a year on electricity.
- Draught-proofing windows and doors will help your home feel warmer and could save around £50 a year on bills.
- Turning appliances off at the wall/plug when you're not using them could save an average of £60 a year.
- Turning the thermostat down by 1°C could save around £115 a year.

Installing a Smart Meter can help people get better control of their energy use and budgets. Smart meters come with an In-home Display Unit that shows how much you're using and its cost, almost as you use it – in real time. The government has instructed all energy suppliers to offer households a smart meter by 2025. You don't have to have one but may benefit from reduced tariffs with some suppliers. The government estimates that customers with smart meters save an average of £50 a year.

Check you're getting all the support you're entitled to...

Lifestyle changes won't be possible for everyone and may not be enough to cover the hole in household budgets caused by higher prices, so Citizens Advice is also urging people to check they're getting all the support they're entitled to. This could include:

- Checking what benefits you're entitled to by using a benefits calculator
- Warm Home Discount — a £150 annual discount if you get certain benefits
- Cold weather payments — payments if you get certain benefits and the weather is extremely cold
- Grants from your energy supplier — to help you pay off debts you may owe

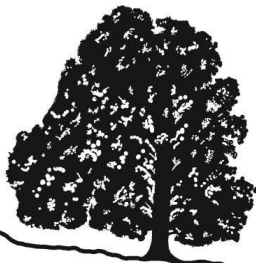
For more information, visit www.citizensadvice.org.uk

If you owe money to your energy supplier, you should speak to them as soon as possible. They're responsible for helping you find a way to pay your bills. If you need further help contact Citizens Advice Stroud and Cotswold Districts on 0808 800 0510 or 0808 800 0511 Monday to Thursday, or Email us using the form on our website (www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk).

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Avening Community Café

HOME MADE CAKES – HOT DRINKS – COMMUNAL RAG RUGGING
Enjoy a friendly morning with good company at your Community Café.
Every Tuesday morning in the Social Club from 9am.
Mobile Post Office on site from 9:30 – 11:30.

Wow!! Still going strong after 5 years, the Community Café celebrated its birthday on 14 November with a glass of bubbly. A big thank you to the committee, all volunteers, our many customers and friends.

Congratulations to the winners of our Rugby World Cup sweepstake – Sharon, Gwyneth, Jim, Julie, Mandy and Peter. Also many thanks to those who supported the Litter Pick at the end of October – several bags of rubbish were collected, helping to keep Avening tidy. There were scary goings-on at the Halloween Café with free cakes for those in fancy dress.

The next rag rug is well underway depicting the cafe with a fabulous centrepiece designed and embroidered by Louise Watson. Come along and join in.

A few Christmassy themed activities are organised for December – everyone is welcome; where else can you enjoy a hot drink and homemade cake for only £3 – really good value for money.

December Highlights

5th: **“Made in Avening”** Crafts – buy your gifts for Christmas

12th: **Wreath making** (£3 each, bring along greenery and decorations)

19th: **Christmas celebrations with Mel’s Christmas music, Mince Pies, Raffle and Art with Mark** (£3, all materials supplied)

January Highlights

2nd: Happy New Year!

16th: **Art with Mark** (£3, all materials supplied) plus Bacon Butties!

23rd: Burns Night Theme

Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year.



The café rag-ruggers

John Hetterley, for Avening Community Cafe



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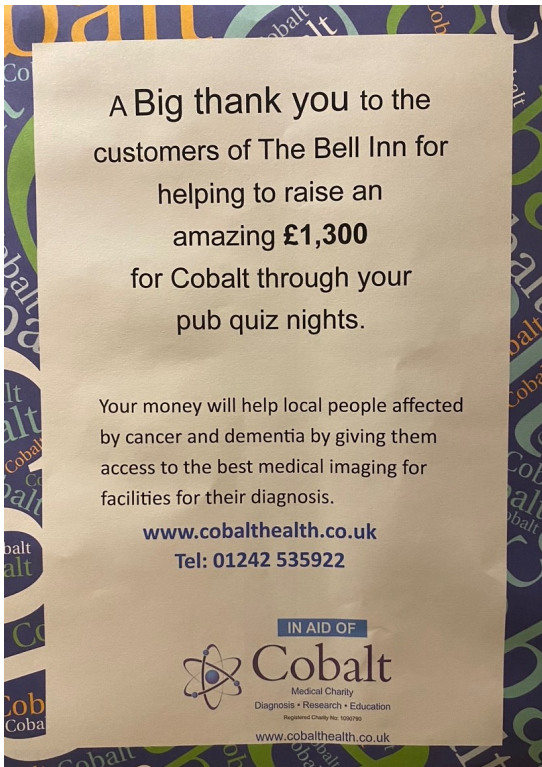
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Congratulations!

To Tony Williams and the quizzers at The Bell who have raised an amazing

£1,300

For the Cobalt Appeal

TONY'S CHARITY QUIZ NIGHTS

THE BELL, AVENING

1ST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH

£2 A PLAYER: A MAXIMUM OF 4 PLAYERS PER TEAM

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Recycle your Christmas Tree with Longfield

Get organised and book your Christmas tree collection before you've even cooked the turkey.



For a voluntary donation, you'll get your tree whisked away by Longfield's team of volunteers and taken to recycling sites where it will be chipped into mulch, then scattered on pathways and car parks at Painswick Rococo Garden.



LONGFIELD
Community Hospice

Last year, Longfield collected 3,000 trees from the Stroud, Cirencester and Gloucester districts in just three days, and raised nearly £50,000 for essential hospice care. This year, they're aiming to beat last year's record – costs of care are rising and they need every penny to provide free hospice care for dying people and their families, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Check whether Longfield can collect from your postcode and book your collection at www.just-helping.org.uk/register-tree.

Longfield couldn't run this scheme without the support of dozens of local businesses and volunteers who donate vans and drivers during the collection period.

If you can volunteer your time or a van, or both, for a day or more between 13th to 16th January, please contact Longfield at events@longfield.org.uk or 01453 886868

AVENINGCINEMA CLUB



There is no Cinema Club in December

The next showing will be

THE UNLIKELY PILGRIMAGE OF HAROLD FRY

31st JANUARY 2024

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

Please feel free to bring refreshments

AVENING MEMORIAL HALL

Admission £5

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

Contact us at aveningcinemaclub@gmail.com

The film club is a not for profit community event. Any profit made after screening/licence costs will be donated to local charities

Run out of Christmas Cards?

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Districts



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You can buy more without leaving the village and at the same time help your local Citizens Advice to give much needed help to people in crisis.

£5 for a pack of 10

Call Jane on 07812 137161

Avening Art Group



The Avening Art Group is an informal friendly group that meets weekly at Avening Park Farm (Celia's) on Wednesdays from 10 to 12. All budding artists are welcome to attend – further information available from the Community Cafe. There is also fortnightly tuition from Mark Kelland. We look forward to seeing you.



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Mr & Mrs T - November 2022

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8	1	2	3	9	6	7	4	5
9	6	5	8	4	7	3	1	2
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Avening Parish Council



Disposing of Batteries and Vapes

The disposal of batteries and vapes in the general waste caused a bin lorry to catch fire. Please dispose of them responsibly. Shops selling these items must have a take back scheme.

Parish Council Vacancy

There is still a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. The Parish Council meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7pm. If you are interested, please contact the Clerk or speak to a Parish Councillor.

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

New Planning Applications

23/03328/LBC: Beehive House, Nags Head Lane. Replacement Windows. No Objection

23/03302/COMPLY: Rudgeway Barn, Avening, Compliance with conditions 5 (landscaping scheme prior to first use) and 12 (external lighting plan) of permission

21/02281/FUL: Conversion of agricultural barn into dwelling. – No Objection

23/03252/FUL: Bannut Tree, New Inn Lane. Fenestration alterations including addition of windows, dormer windows and rooflight. No Objection.

Decisions Notices

23/02807/CLOPUD: Beehive House Nags Head Lane - Certificate of lawful proposed use or development under Section 192 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for replacement of windows. Permitted.

23/02645/FUL: Quietways, West End - Erection of a two-storey side extension. Permitted.

23/00845/COMPLY: Land Parcel At The Sunground Compliance with conditions 3 (Sample materials), 4 (Sample walling panel), 5 (Sample panel - retaining walls), 7 (Sample render panel), 10 (Details) and 11 (External finishes) of permission

21/02887/FUL - Variation of Conditions 2 (approved plans) and 20 (tree protection plan) of permission 19/04221/FUL Permitted.

Police Report

1st October – 31st October Three crimes. 1 Criminal damage, 2 Violence. (1 Assault with injury and 1 public disorder.)

Neighbourhood Policing Team

PC Chris Pritchard; PCSO Edmund Maina 101@gloucestershire.police.uk

Potholes

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

The next Parish Council meeting will be on 13th December

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

A Bite to Eat?

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

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

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

For prices and any further details :

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



TETBURY GOODS SHED

A R T S C E N T R E

HIGHLIGHTS AT THE GOODS SHED FOR DECEMBER

- December 2/3** **Craft Fair:** Two-day Christmas Craft Fair at Tetbury Goods Shed
Open to the public 10.30am to 5.00pm
- December 8** **All On A Winter's Night,** Johnny Coppin - one of England's finest singer/songwriters- presents another feast of traditional carols, new songs, stories, folklore and superstitions. Tickets £20/£10 under 25.
7.30-9.45
- December 9** **The Bon Jovi Experience:** The official tribute band to Bon Jovi, endorsed by the man himself, fronted by a lead singer so familiar, you won't believe he's not the real deal! 7.30 – 10.00 Tickets £20
- December 15** **Comedy Club:** Come and enjoy to festive fun at the Goods-Shed in the company of these comedy Christmas Crackers Tom Glover, Samantha Day and Morgan Rees! 8-10. Tickets£12.50/£10 under 25
- December 16** **Jack and the Bean Stalk:** Join Jack on his GIANT adventure as he climbs the beanstalk to an enchanted land to rescue his friends and family from one very hungry giant! 2 -4.15. Tickets £12 adults, £9 under 14, £35 family ticket for 4.

For details of our films, talks and other events and to book tickets visit our website:

www.shed-arts.co.uk

Regular Activities in the Villages

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

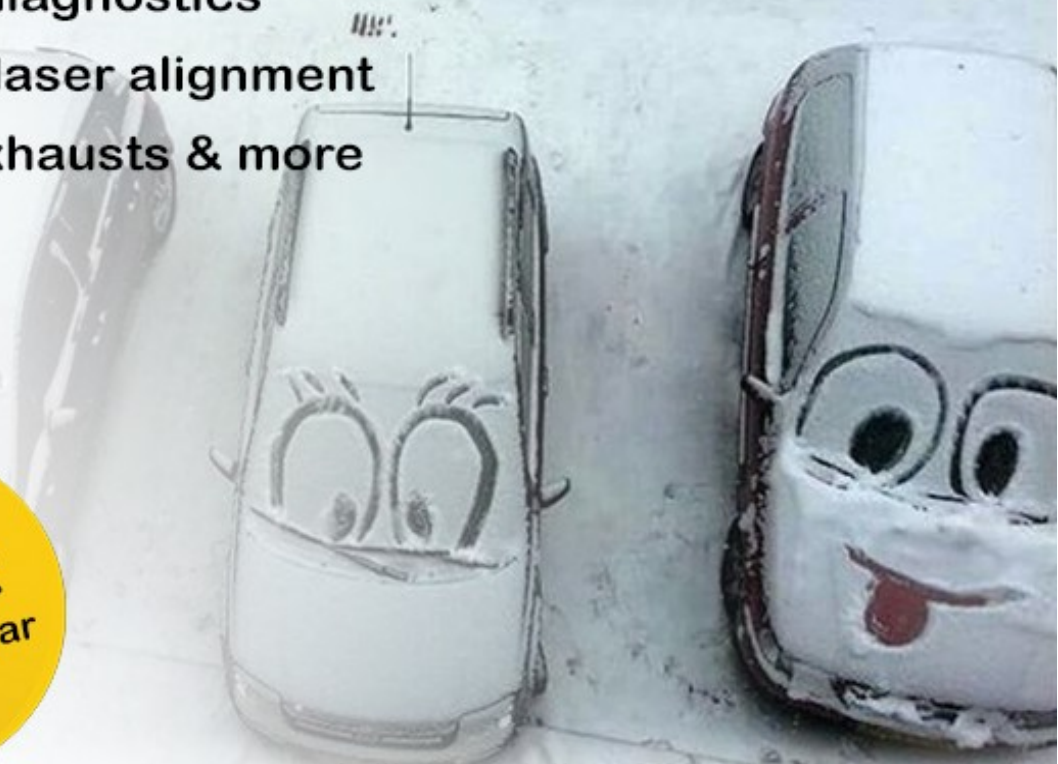
Event	Day	Time	Where	Contact
Community Café	Tuesday	9.00am - 12.00pm	Social Club	Gill Adams 07826 291759
Mobile Post Office	Tuesday	9.30am - 11.30pm	Social Club car park	
Cherington PC	Tuesday bi-monthly	6.00pm	Cherington Village hall	Richard Smith 07884 265117
Line Dancing	Tuesday	8.00 - 9.30 pm	Social Club	Social Club 01453 833760
Avening Youth Club	Every Tuesday in term time	6.30 – 8.00pm	Avening Memorial Hall	01453 756745
Avening Churchyard tidy up	Wednesday	6.00 - 7.00pm	Holy Cross churchyard	Churchwardens
Avening Art Group	Wednesday	10.00 – 12.00	Avening Park Farm	Community Café
Avening PC	2nd Wednesday each month	7.30pm	Memorial Hall	Shani Baker 07415 039234
Avening Cinema Club	Last Wednesday each month	7.30pm	Memorial Hall	avening Cinemaclub@gmail.com
Avening church bell ringing	Wednesday	8.00-9.00pm	Church bell tower	Andrew Lelliott Aslelliott37@gmail.com
Avening W.I.	2nd Thursday each month	7.30pm	Social Club/ Memorial Hall	Liz 01453 833803
Charity Quiz	1st Saturday each month	8.00pm	The Bell	
Avening Singers	Sunday	4.00pm	tba	Derrick Pierce 01453 835090

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Inchbrook Trading Estate, (A46) Bath Road, Nailsworth, GL5 5EY

The Bell at Avening

a traditional British pub serving a great selection of real ales and authentic Indian food



OPENING TIMES:
MONDAY: CLOSED
TUESDAY-THURSDAY: 5.00PM-CLOSE
FRIDAY: 4PM-CLOSE
SATURDAY & SUNDAY: 3PM-CLOSE
FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH
IS TONY'S QUIZ NIGHT

Little
INDIA
at THE BELL

Little India @ The Bell, serving food from Tues-Sun 5.30pm-close
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Visit our website for full menu

FOOD HYGIENE RATING

① ② ③ ④ ⑤

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www.thebellavening.co.uk

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Day Centre & Social Club

- Home cooked lunch plus teas/ coffees
- Group activities, craft sessions and companionship

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- Help with Personal & Domestic tasks, Sitting Service
- Meals on Wheels locally

Nursing Home

- General & Specialist Dementia Nursing
- Registered Nurses on duty 24 hours a day
- Free and Pre-arranged Respite Care available all year round



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