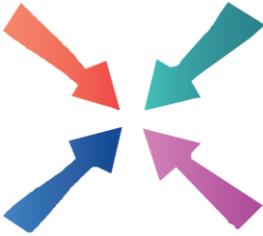


MEETING POINT



OCTOBER 2019



Meeting Point

Volume 44, Number 1, October 2019

The community magazine for the villages of Olveston, Tockington, Old Down, Lower Hazel, Awkley, Ingst, Aust, Elberton and Littleton upon Severn

EDITOR:

Marelin Orr-Ewing
Courtlands
Olveston
Bristol BS35 4DU
Tel: 01454 610081
meetingpointeditor@gmail.com

ASSISTANT EDITOR:

Angela Williams
Ashlea
Haw Lane
Olveston
Bristol BS35 4EG
Tel 01454 612850
meetingpointmagazine@gmail.com

ADVERTISING:

Bernard Amos
Tel: 01454 620388
meetingpointadvertising@gmail.com

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From the Editor

I am always pleased, and intrigued, when an article arrives from Nick Fear, with the suggestion that it may 'be of interest'. Nick's articles are always welcome, and they give us insights into aspects of local history that are not necessarily common knowledge. They are always interesting, and occasionally quirky, and this month's offering is no exception.

October sees Monday Movies returning after its summer break, with two excellent choices. The Historical Society (OPHS) also resumes its programme this month. OPTA, (The Twinning Association), is once again running an Autumn event in the Parish Hall, which should be fun for all ages. Plus, of course, lots of other activities to enjoy from quizzes and lectures to concerts and plays. And, if you are passing Olveston Stores or the Crusty Loaf on October 5th, don't forget to add your contribution to the Scouts Annual Line of Coins!

Marelin .

The cover is by Lisa Helyar

Meeting Point Founded in 1976 by the Anglican and Methodist churches in Olveston, near Bristol.

Meeting Point magazine and Meeting Point Directory are online at the Community Website: www.olvestonandaust.com

October Movie Programme

Trevor Anderson

Refreshed after our summer break, we begin our autumn programme this month. Films are shown on the first and third Monday evenings in St. Mary's Church, Olveston.



Our two October films are described below and leaflets giving further details of these, plus those for the following two months, are now available.

Movie Club members will have received theirs by email and paper copies are available to pick up from just inside the church.

Everyone is welcome (you don't need to be a Movie Club member), admission is free and there is no need to book.



Mon 7th Oct at 7.30pm: A gentle, sweet-natured British comedy drama in which a group of fishermen with a talent for singing sea shanties are offered the chance to sign a record deal. (2018, 1h 52m, Cert 12)



Mon 21st Oct at 7.30pm: One of the world's greatest comedy teams, in the twilight of their career, set out on a tour of Britain and Ireland. After an inauspicious beginning, their friendship and performances shine through, making each other and their audiences laugh whilst winning the love and affection of legions of adoring fans. (2018, 1h 38m, Cert PG).

All the films are shown in St Mary's Church, Olveston and doors open 30 minutes before the start. Refreshments are available at all the shows, plus licensed bar in the evenings and popcorn and soft drinks at any morning films.



We make no charge for entry, but we do value and appreciate a small donation towards church running costs if you have enjoyed the show.

For copyright reasons we can't name the films here, but if you join the Movie Club, we'll send you titles and full details by email. It costs nothing to join – just email me at trevoranderson@btinternet.com.

A Tree for Alice

Mike Lewis

Alice Neale was a resident at Daldry Gardens for 33 years, before she passed away just a month short of her 100th birthday. Before Alice and her late husband Roland moved to Daldry Gardens they had been local farmers for many years. To celebrate her long life the Friends of Daldry Gardens had for a long while planned a big party on her 100th birthday.

Sadly, Alice fell ill and died on 3rd August. Undeterred, the residents group decided her life should be marked by planting a tree in Daldry Gardens on what would have been her 100th birthday. So, on Thursday 5th September, a large group of family, friends and neighbours gathered at Daldry Gardens for the planting of the tree. Rev. David Moss, Cllr Matthew Riddle, Verger June Robbins and Friends of Daldry Gardens Chairman, Mike Lewis, led the celebrations.



Alice's best friend for many years, Jean Panes (*pictured*) planted the tree assisted by Alice's daughters Jennifer and Patricia. Alice loved the colour yellow in her gardens, so Mo Lewis decided on a Robinia tree, whose leaves turn yellow in autumn. To add another dash of yellow, Alice's next-door neighbour, Dennis Bowden, planted some daffodil bulbs with the tree.

Afterwards the group retired to the Communal Lounge for a fish and chips lunch, supplied by Parky's at Thornbury, and a glass of wine. It was a marvellous occasion and most fitting for such a well-loved lady, whose funeral on 15th August had attracted a packed congregation to St Mary's, Olveston.

Everyone will miss Alice greatly as she was involved in all the events at Daldry Gardens from Bingo to Holy Communion to Coffee Mornings until the final weeks of her life. The tree will ensure she is never forgotten.

Aust Parish Council Matters

austparishcouncil@googlemail.com.

Ron Gwyther

Sadly, Ron Gwyther passed away in August. Ron was a Parish Councillor representing Littleton-upon-Severn for over 30 years. The Council benefitted enormously from his local knowledge. He always considered what would be in the best interest of the village and was incredibly fair minded. He will be sorely missed. Everybody on the Council sends Ron's family their condolences.

New Councillor Vacancy

The vacancy was declared by the Council at the September meeting. If you would be interested in serving as a Councillor, please get in touch with the Chairman, Catherine Collinson at *catherine.collinson@btinternet.com*, or the clerk, Kath Godden, at the above address.

Aust Ferry Improvements

Following the completion of the public engagement and in response to feedback received, South Gloucestershire Council did make some small changes to the fencing plans at the Aust Ferry site. At the point you are reading this article, work should be completed in clearing the vegetation at the site, along with the removal of the old toilet block.

News from Olveston and Tockington Methodist Church.

We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who came along to support us on August Bank Holiday Monday. Our Cream Teas were a great success and a staggering £850 was raised for the Thornbury and District Stroke Support Group.

Tea and Chat

If you find it difficult to get out and socialise, why not come to Tea and Chat? Meeting once a month, Tea and Chat is made up of people just like you and it's a great way to meet up with old friends and make some new ones at the same time. The October Tea and Chat is going to be on Friday, October 25th at 2.30pm at the home of Pat Savage, Westmead.

Transport is provided and it's all free. To find out details and to request transport if necessary, please telephone Lynn 01454 612201 or Lesley 01454 613804.

News from St. Mary's

Debbie Harries



Harvest Festival

We will be having our Harvest Festival Service on Sunday October 6th at 11am. This will be followed by a bring and share lunch. Hope you can join us and we look forward to welcoming you.

Quiz Night

Our next quiz will be on Saturday October 12th at 7.30pm. Pork and apple hot pot is on the menu! If you would like to book a team please contact Debbie on oboe-debbie@live.co.uk

Tickets £6 per person with a maximum of 6 per team.

Murder Mystery

We are holding a murder mystery evening at St Mary's on November 2nd at 7.30pm. Tickets £8 per person. Finger food and bar available. For more details contact Debbie on [01454 613273](tel:01454613273) or oboe-debbie@live.co.uk

Advent Windows

There are still spaces available for those who wish to create an Advent window for our living Advent Calendar. The windows always look beautiful throughout December, as people prepare for Christmas. If you would like to have a go at designing one please let Debbie know on [01454 613273](tel:01454613273) or oboe-debbie@live.co.uk

Increased Forest Learning at Stepping Stones

At Stepping Stones in Elberton we are very lucky to have woods in the grounds and are able to offer forest sessions. It has become clear to us that when learning outside in a natural environment, children are more motivated, stimulated and eager to learn. The environment offers a wealth of opportunities that playing inside is unable to give. Because of this we are increasing our outside learning, especially in the woods. Although we will still be offering our set Forest sessions, we will now go out into the woods on other days as well, whenever we have the opportunity.

To promote the fact that we are extending this wonderful outdoor learning experience we are offering 3 free taster forest sessions in October for any new child aged 2 - 3. Forest activities will include climbing & hiding, den making,

mud painting, bug hunting, crafts and other activities. Songs, stories and snack are held in our den.

If you would like to know more or would like your child to the experience for themselves, free of charge, the excellent outside learning opportunities we offer, please contact Gill on 07853173221 or email gillpowell1961@hotmail.co.uk.

The Royal British Legion Women's Section, Olveston Branch

In August we met for our annual barbecue in the splendid surroundings of our Chairman's garden at Tomorosa. We started off the afternoon by dodging the showers, but the sun soon came out and we were able to relax and enjoy a splendid repast of burgers and sausages followed by a selection of desserts and puddings.

In September we enjoyed another fund-raising meeting of bingo and in October we will be welcoming Garry Holden, who will be talking to us about the work of the Office for National Statistics.

Olveston and Tockington W.I.

Vicki Townsend

We met for our Annual Dinner on 13th August at The Italian Kitchen at The Olveston House Hotel. A very enjoyable evening was had by all, good food, good company and lots of gossip.

Angela Green, a member of the W.I., gave an interesting and thought-provoking talk on Feminism at the September meeting. She quoted historical references, going back as far as Pythagoras, to demonstrate men's view of the role of women in times gone by. We were taken through the thoughts of Mary Wollstonecraft in the 1790s, the suffragette activism and organisation of Emmeline Pankhurst in the 1900s which helped women to win the right to vote in 1918. The two World Wars changed the role of women in society and the cause was further promoted by Simone de Beauvoir in 1947. The work of Margaret Sanger and Marie Stopes to introduce methods of birth control and the production, after many years of research, of the birth control pill in 1960 changed many women's lives, as did the Abortion Act of 1967 and the Equal Pay Act of 1975. We discussed 'Political Correctness', gender equality and the

'Me Too!' campaign. Although it might be assumed that Angela was 'preaching to the converted', there were several different views aired. A spirited and lively evening was enjoyed by a well-attended meeting.

Our October meeting will be on Tuesday 8th at 7.30pm, when the speaker will be Norman Taylor, whose subject will be Genealogy. All are welcome, you may be prompted to discover your family's interesting - or maybe shady - history!



Our Villages Need Your Help!

In recent years the local community has expressed concern at the increased volume and speed of traffic through our villages. There has been a marked

increase in the volume of through traffic since the removal of the toll charges on the Severn Bridge, many of which are large commercial vehicles that contravene the speed and weight restrictions that apply around the area. This all has a serious impact on the safety of our villagers, but particularly on children and older people, and it is felt that now is the time for action to be taken. Other concerns raised include anti-social street parking, signage, lighting and traffic calming measures.

Olveston Parish Council is supportive of action being taken and information is currently being gathered from various sources including traffic monitoring and will be compiled into a report to be presented to South Gloucestershire Council soon. It is most important that the views of the community are represented and would ask for your comments on the following:

1. The installation of traffic-calming measures especially the option of a 20mph limit throughout the villages;
2. Any issues you may have with parking that affect you personally;
3. Any other traffic/parking related issues about which you have concerns.

If you are interested in preserving the character of our lovely villages and, in particular, the safety of those who live in them, then please do give the above some thought and submit your views, by 31st October, to:

clerk@olvestonparishcouncil.gov.uk. Thank you on behalf of the Traffic and Parking Sub-Committee, Olveston Parish Council

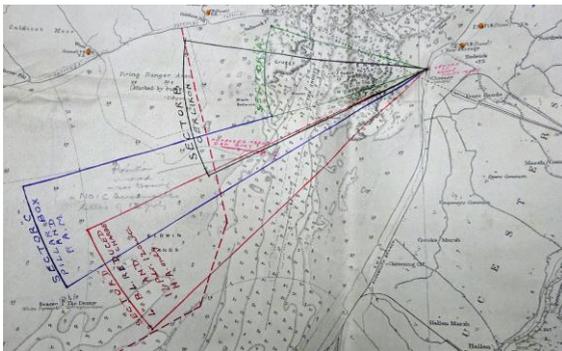
Bullets and Fishy Legends of the River Severn

Nick Fear

Looking at the River Severn near Aust today, it is difficult to imagine open waters and no sign of any bridges crossing the area. A first road crossing had been suggested by Thomas Telford in 1824, but it took until 1961 for the construction of the first bridge to begin. At the outbreak of World War Two the only way for the public to cross over the river was the Aust to Beachley Ferry.

In early 1939 the Air Ministry established several practice firing ranges in the country, one being in our local area. The breadth of the River Severn offshore from Aust and the observation that this opened up further downstream was ideal for RAF planes to use for practice shooting. Plans were produced which plotted ranges radiating from a distinctive chimney serving a steam powered pump house, south of New Passage, near the entrance of the Severn Tunnel. For different types of guns several triangular ranges, A to D, were marked on maps to accommodate different calibres of weapons. The furthest of these extended almost to Denny Island off Avonmouth.

Connected to the river range was the established land-based firing range at Redwick. The whole area was protected by four flagstaffs and look-out huts. When firing took place, red flags were hoisted and, when safety returned, these were taken down. Service personnel in the huts watched over the area and suitable warning notices were posted. On the water, warning buoys marked out danger areas. The whole scheme was ably managed by HMS



HMS Flying Fox firing range map

Flying Fox, the headquarters of which were in Bristol.

Perhaps the most obvious alarm for local people was the noise of aircraft, flying down the Severn, firing a variety of guns. Several calibres of machine guns, Bofors, Oerlikons, the powerful Hispanos and a few unnamed

devices cloaked in secrecy, poured fire into the river. Some of these were aimed at a fixed target near the Black Badwins rocks, offshore of Chittingen chimney - another local landmark. Sometimes a drogue target, a kite like device on a long rope pulled by a plane, was fired at from the air or at ground level. At Redwick, twelve pounder field guns let loose at this and the

innocently named 'Pillar Box', fired rockets which could reach as high as 10,000 feet before exploding. The Redwick range was protected by sand and soil butts into which bullets could be spent and, in one area, steel plates guarded the end of the range. It was accepted however that stray projectiles could overshoot these into the Severn.

As well as 'friendly fire' the area was bombed several times by the Luftwaffe trying to destroy the Severn railway tunnel. The highly regarded 'Smiley' Ken Neale of Tockington can remember sheltering under a tree at Pool Corner and seeing a German aircraft pass by. It was so slow and low that the pilots face was clearly visible. Fortunately, the raids did not succeed, as the bombing was well spread and inaccurate. It did provide shoreline bomb craters used as low tide bathing pools by local families.

Whilst the spectacle of military might was impressive, it did not please everyone. The salmon fishing rights belonged to retired Lieutenant Commander Frank Howard Pratt of Darts Cottage, Pilning. The local salmon pool extended from Severn Beach to New Passage. Lave nets and other fishing devices caught the prized fish. Due to the ranges however, letters to the Air Ministry pointed out a loss of fishing time and unexploded devices in the area being a real danger and compensation for loss of earnings was requested. Copious reports at our National Archives detail serious Government considerations. The Air Ministry had indemnified the range for, 'loss, damage or injury to property or persons', but no mention was made of fish. Matters were eventually ended by an official pointing out that the activity on the Severn was clearly in 'Defence of the Realm', for which there was no provision for compensation.

There were compensations perhaps unknown to The Ministry, for local people, who soon realised that explosions in the water produced an unintended gift of fish. Salmon and other delicious fish that had been caught in the firing, floated to the surface and many came ashore. They provide a welcomed addition to wartime rationing. Any mention of Severn fishing at this time must recall Sidney Wilkins, the grandfather of 'Smiley' Ken. He became legendary for his skill at catching conger eels which he cut up and distributed locally, as they were not rationed. On one occasion he was seen cycling home, with dormant large eels draped over his shoulders. They were remembered as being so big that the head and tail both nearly touched the road. His undoubted skill with eels did not depend on explosives, although he may also have benefited from that fishy bounty.

The end of the war saw some sort of normality return to the Severn. The Severn Ferry no longer risked an accidental strafing from on high. Fishing resumed, although stocks were found to be depleted. It was claimed – but never proven - that this was due to the firing ranges. The local villages appreciated peace after six long years of war and so, I am sure, did the fishy inhabitants of the River Severn.

An Evening of Entertainment.....

Watch out for these fantastic posters and flyers advertising the 'Funtastic Friday' being held in Olveston Parish Hall on Friday 18th October.

FRIDAY 18th OCTOBER
OLVESTON PARISH HALL 6.30 - 9.30pm

FUNTASTIC FRIDAY

ENTERTAINMENT FOR ALL AGES
WITH
CIRQUE DE FLIM FLAM FLEA
FROM THE SAMESAMEBUTDIFFERENT THEATRE

GAMES - APPLE PRESSING - MUSIC - DANCING

NIBBLES & BAR

ADULTS £8 CHILDREN £4
BOOK TICKETS IN ADVANCE: amanda.seeva@gmail.com
FOR INFO PHONE 01454 610081 OR TEXT 07715125835

ORGANISED BY OLVESTON PARISH TWINNING ASSOCIATION
ALL PROFITS GO TOWARDS SENDING CHILDREN ON THE TWINNING VISITS TO FRANCE

We have got special guests, Samesamebutdifferent Theatre, performing their Cirque de Flim Flam Flea, supported by local musicians, dancing and games with apple pressing (weather permitting).

There will be a bar serving a variety of drinks and light refreshments provided.

£8 Adults

£4 Children

This really is going to be fun for all ages.

For further details contact:

01454 610081

or

07715 125835

To book tickets contact

Amanda Seevaratnum on:

amanda.seeva@gmail.com

From the Registers of Olveston and Tockington Methodist Church, Olveston Chapel

9th September A Service of Thanksgiving in memory of Peter John Sawyer

Friends of St. Mary's

The prize winners in the August draw, held on 17th August 2019 at the St Mary's Church Summer Street Fayre were:

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
£150	456	Mrs S Toft, Olveston
£75	175	Mrs B Morgan, Tockington
£25	295	Mrs A Wytchard, Olveston
£25	180	Mrs S Farr, Olveston
£25	555	Mrs E Whitford, Tockington
£20	221	Mrs S Pearce, Ingst
£20	476	Mrs A Harley, Alveston
£20	360	Mr & Mrs T Roper, Tockington
£10	512	Mrs R Arkell, Olveston
£10	392	Ms A Chick, London
£10	359	Mrs J Hawkins, Alveston
£10	233	Mrs G Bowen, Tockington

The prize winners in the September draw, held on 5th September 2019 at the Friends' Committee Meeting were:

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
£150	183	Mrs R Hitchcock, Thornbury
£75	353	Mr B Rogers, Winterbourne Down
£25	540	Mrs S Chick, Olveston
£25	272	Ms A Chick, London
£25	150	Mr G Williams, Olveston
£20	274	Mr & Mrs J Croome, Exmouth
£20	289	Mrs G Davies, Abergavenny
£20	615	Mrs S Fairhead, Oldbury-on-Severn
£10	478	Mrs S Farr, Olveston
£10	236	Mr M E Scott, Rudgeway
£10	315	Mrs J Spratt, Tockington
£10	420	Mr R Bush, Westbury-on-Trym

If you are not yet a member and wish to join the lottery, please telephone Andy Phillips on 01454 614890.

Excavations at Lower Hazel

Olveston Parish Historical Society. Wednesday 2nd October 7.30 pm.
Olveston Methodist Church

After the Norman Conquest, land in Alveston was claimed as Royal Forest.



This was land reserved by the King for hunting, and subject to special laws administered by special officers.

Forest was valued by the King because it supported wild beasts for hunting. Harsh forest legislation, often resented by the King's subjects, protected these beasts from unauthorised hunting and from any action which discouraged their breeding.

Lower Hazel is in Olveston Parish, bordering the parish of Alveston. In the first talk of our new season, Roger Howell will give us an update on Excavations at Lower Hazel and will explain how the excavations link to the Royal Forest of Alveston. In his beautifully illustrated talk, he will explain the nature of the site and the kind of work he and others have been carrying out there. The talk will be very up-to-the-minute, as Roger will be incorporating their latest findings.

There will be a brief AGM before the talk. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served. Everyone's welcome to this talk... just turn up.

To join for the year (7 lively, interesting talks), it's just £8 - a bargain! Pay on the night. Or, if you don't want to join, £2 for a single meeting, just pay on the door.

The Annual Programme of talks is on the next page and will be available at this meeting. It will also be on the community website:

www.olveston.com/historical-society

Olveston Parish Historical Society 2019/20

Here's what's in store this year. Everyone welcome... just turn up!

Wed. 2nd Oct. 2019

Welcome all! A short AGM will be followed by the latest on **Excavations at Lower Hazel** from Roger Howell. Roger, a retired professional archaeologist, has been exploring the former Royal Deer Park of Alveston.

Wed. 6th November 2019

If you want to be well and truly inspired, come and hear Mary Wright outline the life of **Elizabeth Blackwell of Bristol** who, 170 years ago, became the first woman in the world to qualify and register as a doctor. It's quite a story.

Wed. 4th December 2019

Any idea how many bridges Bristol has? Jeff Lucas can tell you. **From Brycgstow to Bristol in 45 Bridges** will showcase some of the most interesting bridges - and will reveal the answer to Bristol's Königsberg Bridge Problem!

Wed. 8th January 2020

Local resident Gareth Williams, always a popular speaker, will talk about **Unravelling the Double Helix: The Lost Heroes of DNA**.

Wed. 5th February 2020

John Strachan will give a beautifully illustrated talk on **Advertising in Late Georgian England**, using many examples from Bath.

Wed. 4th March 2020

Mabel Tohill (1869 - 1964), Quaker peace campaigner, socialist and Bristol's first woman councillor, worked tirelessly for women's suffrage, education for all, workers' rights and conscientious objectors and their families. June Hannam will introduce her to us.

Wed. 1st April 2020

An evening of **Severn Salmon Fishing**: besides photographs of Severn salmon fishing taken by the late Nick Large in the 1960s (and now captured in a new publication by our local museum), Christabelle Tymko of Oldbury-on-Severn will share some of her experiences of working with salmon putchers.

Venue: Olveston Methodist Church 7.30 pm.

Annual membership rate (for 7 talks): £8 - pay on the night or £2 for a single meeting - pay on the night.

Programme Secretaries: Jenny & Richard Newley 01454 202011.

www.olveston.com/historical-society



Oveston Parish Council

Pat Savage



Planter at the Junction of Aust Road & Elberton Road

The old planter has been replaced by a very stylish box which was made and installed by Dave Webb. The planting was done by Chris and Julie Arkey who kindly tend the planter on a regular basis. When choosing the plants Chris and Julie were very conscious of the Council's biodiversity policy. To both of them, thank you.

Local Community Grant

Oveston Parish Council (OPC) are proud to offer our local community the option to apply for a grant to support any group, an organisation which has a specific project or, someone who can demonstrate that such a project will bring a sense of enrichment to the Parish. The Grants will be awarded every six months, in September and March. The total amount available is £10,000 per annum with £5,000 awarded in March and again in September. Please send all applications to The Clerk, clerk@olvestonparishcouncil.gov.uk

The Tockington Tardis

Whilst a petition was launched immediately to replace the Telephone Box in Old Down following its demise in a road accident, the Tockington Tardis is looking very sad and unused. The initial intention was twofold: for it to be used as a book swap space and for people to deposit items of non-perishable foods to be taken to the food bank. Now it appears to be solely used for books, which are deposited in the hope the Council will undertake the trip to the Charity Shop, or indeed Sort It. We would very much value feedback from the local Community as to the future of the Tardis or should we indeed encourage the Parishioners to step inside and back in time!

From the Registers of St. Mary's, Olveston

15th August

Funeral of Alice Neale

24th August

Baptism of Arthur Boyden Davies, son of Rupert and Kim Davies

Stillness, Reflection, Connection

If you are feeling that the hustle and bustle of daily life is leaving you little time to consider where it is leading you, or if you are yearning for a quiet moment to ponder the deeper meaning of life, then you may find a welcome retreat with Thornbury Quakers. Quakerism has its roots in Christianity, but members now are attracted from all faiths, and none, as there are no set beliefs or 'creed.' Thornbury Quakers meet every Sunday morning at 10.30 at the Chantry Community Centre on Castle Street. We spend an hour in silence, when someone might be moved to speak, and this period of contemplation is always followed by a cuppa and a chat.

If our principles of peace, equality, sustainability, truth and justice resonate for you, please join us for a 'taster session' on **Sunday 13 October, 10.30 - 11.30am, in the Buckingham Room at the Chantry**. There will be a half hour silence, followed by three people sharing their reasons for attending Quakers. You will then have the opportunity to ask questions. For online information on national and local Quakers visit:

www.quaker.org.uk and www.bristolquakers.org.uk.

If you require further information about the meeting, please contact our Clerk Brian Hawkins on 01454 854867

All are most welcome. Do come along and find out for yourself the power of silence.

U3A Welcome Meeting

Thornbury and District U3A has nearly 1,900 members and around 90 different interest groups meeting at various venues throughout the area, but there is always room for more! The groups mainly meet during the day and interests range from Archaeology to Walking. Some meet weekly, others less often and

they include physical activities, crafts, board and card games, organised visits to gardens, concert and theatre as well as purely 'educational' topics.

We will be holding our next Welcome Meeting for new and prospective members on Monday, 7th October 2019 from 3:30pm in St Mary's Church Hall, Eastbury Road, Thornbury, BS35 1DR. Please come along; we would love to meet you and bring your friends.

For further information visit our website www.thornburyu3a.org.uk or phone our Membership Secretary, Jackie Gitsham on 858438 or Chariman, Alison Makepeace on 415019.

'Sow and Grow' Sponsored Walk

On a beautiful day at the end of August, sixteen walkers left Aust church to walk to Olveston via Littleton and Elberton. Walking past the viewpoint of the Old Severn Bridge their first stop was coffee in Littleton Village Hall, followed by an interesting tour of Littleton Church with its unusual Norman font and shelter from one rain shower. After lunch it was over the fields to look round Elberton church, followed by more fields back to St Mary's Olveston.



The walk was enjoyed by all, several people joined in on the way, and we have had some very generous donations. An anonymous donor guaranteed to match all donations up to £2,500 and the current Sow and Grow total is around £9,000, well on the way to the £15,000 target to be divided between sustainable support for returning Rwandan refugees and a reflective outdoor space for Olveston School.

Our next fund-raising event is an Evening of Jazz with the Mark Randall Six. Saturday 5th October, 7.30pm at St Mary's Church.

Tickets are £10 from Olveston Stores.

Thornbury and District Cancer Research UK Committee

The Cancer Research UK Autumn Fair is being held at St. Helen's Primary School, Greenhill Road, Alveston on Saturday October 19th, from 10am to 12.30pm. Entry £3 and includes coffee/tea and cake.

Drop in and get your Christmas cards and gifts early. We will have an abundance of home produce including jams, marmalade, chutneys, fruit pies, puddings, cakes and savouries plus jewellery, stationary, books, craft items and a whole lot more, including a raffle.

All proceeds go to Cancer Research UK to help beat cancer!
For further information, please contact Pam on 01454 416941

Alveston Gardens Association

Monday 7th October 7.30pm in Alveston Jubilee Hall
How to grow vegetables in the small garden, with Richard Baldwin.

All welcome – Visitors (£3) Full programme on www.alveston.org

Petition to Reopen Pilning Station's 2nd Platform



It was brought to Pilning Station Group's attention that a new petition has been published on the UK Parliament website – 'Reopen Pilning Station's 2nd platform and make it a request stop'. Much to

our surprise, after only being online for 2 days (as of 31 August), it attracted 473 signatures from all over the UK. We hope that you can spare a few minutes and show your support by signing the online petition. You will need to provide your name, postcode and have access to email to confirm your signature. To find out more about the history of Pilning station and the current campaign, please visit www.pilningstation.uk. To sign the petition, please follow the link to <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/269019/>

Toads

Trevor Cook

It had rained heavily and the courtyard at the back of my house began to flood because the water was not running down the drain. The water had reached my doorstep when it thankfully stopped; something definitely had to be done. I tried flushing water down the drain but to no avail, and then I hit on the idea of running the hosepipe down into the drain to move the blockage along.



Imagine my shock as the hose pipe went down the drain and an enormous toad came up the other way! To this day I have no idea how it got there; was it a recent invader or had it lived down there for years living on the insects and worms that inevitably fall into the drain?

It was a Common toad, as opposed to the rarer Natterjack toad, and could be identified by being browner and wartier than a frog. In addition, their hind legs are shorter than those of a frog and their toes are not webbed either. And that's because it prefers to live further away from water and so they crawl rather than jump like a frog,

As for 'my' toad- I put it in a nearby garden pond which, given their less aquatic life, was not a brilliant idea. The owners of the pond were not overly impressed either, being convinced that their frog tadpoles would be gobbled up. Unfortunately, I couldn't deny their dietary predilections as toads apparently eat almost anything that moves, including grubs, spiders, worms, insects, slugs, snails and other invertebrates



Anyway, we never saw 'my' toad again and can only hope it found a toady love and will help to engender many more little toads in the coming spring. Look out for strings of toad spawn (as shown in the picture above) in your ponds, which are quite different to the usual clumps of frogspawn.

Climate Action Thornbury and Surroundings (CATS)

Danny Bonnett, Chair of Sustainable Thornbury

CATS is putting on two events in the coming weeks so people can find out more about this local initiative. The first is during One World Week, and it is entitled:

Climate Changes Everything (Now is the time to act).

Monday 28th October, from 7.30 to 9.00pm, at the Methodist Church Hall, Castle Court (off the High Street), Thornbury, BS35 2AQ.

There will be engaging speakers, and a question and answer session, as well as refreshments and information available from local groups. It's free.

You are also enthusiastically invited to the second event:

Community Action Thornbury and Surroundings (CATS) Launch

Saturday 2nd November 2019, from 1 to 4pm, also at the Methodist Church Hall. We invite you to come and find out what we are doing, to watch a short film to inform you, to listen to live music to inspire you, learn about your carbon footprint, and see what other places are doing. Most of all, please come and offer to support this in whatever way you can. This is also free.

By the way, for readers in the countryside or villages that surround Thornbury, this is most definitely for you too! Please come to find out more

What's on in Thornbury?

A very full magazine this month means that a number of Thornbury events will get just a brief mention. Contact details are included for you to follow up if interested.

Littleford Rides Again Octopus Drama Group

10th to 12th October in Christ the King Church Hall, Castle St, Thornbury. (Don't worry if you missed the first show, 'Littleford's Got Talent', the villagers will still welcome you and you can be assured of a fun filled evening of music, magic, and madness). Tickets on sale at Chappell and Matthews Estate Agent, Thornbury High St. Price £8 and £7 for concessions. All proceeds from this show will be split between the Alzheimer's Society and 'Christmas in a Box' children's charity.

Stuff and Nonsense – The Musical The Runcible Players

October 13th 7.30pm Cossham Hall, Thornbury (One night only)

This madcap reading-performance of a brand-new musical celebrates the exuberant nonsense of Edward Lear. Tickets available now, please email: stuffandnonsensethemusical@gmail.com with your name and the number of seats you want to reserve. Suggested donation of £10 adults, £5 children, payable at the door. All proceeds to NGS and local hospice charities.

Barnum – A Circus Based Musical Thornbury Musical Theatre Group

Wednesday 23rd to Saturday 26th October. Performances will be at 7.30pm every night plus a matinée on the Saturday at 2.30pm. Tickets start at £10.50 and are available online at www.tmtg.org.uk or contact the Box Office on 07516 270140. Tickets are also available at Lisa Costa Residential Sales and Lettings at 53 High Street, Thornbury. The staff are big fans of TMTG and always delighted to meet our audience members but remember it's a very busy office so please be patient if they're not available the first time you call.

For more information about 'Barnum' go to our website www.tmtg.org.uk or follow us on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter.

Concert with Roger Huckle and Members of the Bristol Ensemble.

Saturday 26th October United Reformed Church 7.30pm. Tickets at £16 each can be obtained from Thornbury Town Hall or by phoning 01454 850933.

Macbeth Downpour Theatre Company

Wednesday 30th and Thursday 31st October at 7.30pm Thornbury Castle School. Tickets available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/downpour-theatre-company. £12 per adult, £10 per concession.

If you would like more information about 'Macbeth' or Downpour Theatre Company, please check out www.downpourtheatrecompany.co.uk.

Severn Vale Flower Club Open Meeting

Monday 4th November 6.30pm for 7.30pm

'It's Christmas, Let's Sparkle' Demonstration plus refreshments, raffle and sales tables. For further information and tickets contact 01453 811089 or 01454 885213.

October at Thornbury Library

There are several special events happening at the Library during October, including Hedgehog Rescue on Saturday 12th October 10am-11.30am (The hedgehog will come out for 10 minutes at 11am). For more information on this, or any other events, please contact us:

Telephone: 01454 868006, email: thornbury.library@southglos.gov.uk

Visit our website to find out more: www.southglos.gov.uk/libraries

Yours Faithfully

*Danny Bamfield
Aust Evangelical Church*

“Therefore I tell you do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink or about your body, what you will wear, is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?” Mat 6v25-26 NIV

Two things that speak hugely of God are nature (that is, Creation) and God’s word, The Bible. In this passage of the bible, it tells us that God feeds the birds and if he can do that, then surely he can look after us if we trust him. It also tells us we are worth more than the birds. I get the feeling that for human beings to be worth more than birds or animals it is becoming increasingly unpopular – man is the bad guy; destructive, warmongering, etc. and the world would be better off without him. Well it may seem like that at times, but I can’t help wondering if we have the wrong image of ourselves.

Genesis 1v27NIV says “So God created man in his own image, In the image of God he created him: male and female he created them.”

Perhaps we do have the wrong image of ourselves, we are more than just animals – human beings are the pinnacle of God’s creation, its crowning glory – what a privilege. We are very special, never think otherwise. Never think your life has no meaning or is worthless. In fact, you are so precious that Jesus was willing to die for you.

‘For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3v16 NIV

It is worth reading in the gospels in the bible about Jesus to see what he is like, anyone reading this can do that. Jesus claimed to be God and by believing in him you can become slowly by his grace, what you were always meant to be: The image of God. A privilege indeed.

Church News

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, OLVESTON

Oct 6	8am 11am 6pm	Holy Communion Harvest Festival, Choir, with Bring & Share Lunch No Service	Rev Helen Webb Revs S. Oram & A. Lloyd
Oct 13	8am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Taizé	Rev Steve Oram Rev S. Oram & Trevor Cook Rev Ann Lloyd
Oct 20	8am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion with Choir Evensong	Rev Steve Oram Revs S. Oram & D. Bone Trevor Cook
Oct 27	8am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion Fourth Sunday Evensong (BCP) with Choir	Rev David Bone Janet McBride Rev David Moss

Information on services correct at time of going to press.

Rev David Moss, 01454 415190; email: mossds@gmail.com

Verger: Mrs. June Robbins, 01454 617491

www.stmarysolveston.org.uk

WEDNESDAY HOLY COMMUNION: At 9.15am, except 4th Wed when it is at Olveston Methodist Church 9.15am

Morning Prayer: 8.30am daily ex. Wed

CHAPELRY OF ST JOHN, AUST

Oct 13	10am	Morning Prayer	Rev Ann Parker
Oct 27	10am	Holy Communion	Rev Ann Parker

Focal Minister: Rev Ann Parker, 01454 632329

e-mail annatdibley@btinternet.com

Church Wardens: Jon Burnett 633835 & Jenn Dickens 632035

ST MARY DE MALMESBURY, LITTLETON-ON-SEVERN

Oct 13	9pm	Morning Prayer	Mrs Tracey Black
Oct 27	8am	Holy Communion	Rev David Moss

Contact: Mrs Tracey Black 01454 417660

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON

Oct 13	9am	Morning Worship	Judith Heybyrne
Oct 27	9am	Holy Communion	Rev David Moss

Contact: Mrs Judith Heybyrne 01454 616725

OLVESTON AND TOCKINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

Oct 6	10am	Tock Ch	Morning Worship led by Mr Colin Blenkinsopp
Oct 13	10am	Olv Ch	Morning Worship led by Mrs Pauline Culshaw
Oct 20	10am	Tock Ch	Service led by members of the congregation
Oct 27	10am	Olv Ch	Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev Simon Edwards

NORTHWICK LUNCHEON GROUP: This meets at 12.30pm on Wed. 9 October.
To book your lunch, please ring 416528.

TOCKINGTON LUNCHEON GROUP: 12.15 Thurs. 17 October at the Swan.

COFFEE MORNINGS: Sats 10.30 - 12 noon in Olveston Methodist Hall.

PRAYER MEETINGS: Tuesdays 9.00-10.00 in Olveston Methodist Church

BIBLE STUDY led by Rev Sandy Williams, Tuesdays 15th and 29th October at 10.30am at 6 Manor Close Tockington.

CONTACT: Rev Simon Edwards Tel 01454 418176,

email: simon.edwards@methodist.org.uk

THE VINE House of Prayer

Pilning Street, Awkley BS35 4HL

Designated as a 'House of Prayer for all Nations' in 2005 we continue to meet in a relaxed atmosphere seeking, with God's help, to find ways to influence the world in which we live through prayer and relevant actions. We meet, on Sundays at 10.30am and Mondays and Wednesdays at 7.30pm We also visit other Churches and events so please check our Notice Board or contact.

Mike and Barbara Matthews, tel. 07512 917229 or email:

thevine_awkley@hotmail.com

THE OASIS CHURCH, OLD DOWN

Oct 6	6.30pm	Steve Loader
Oct 13	6.30pm	Mike Ogbourne
Oct 20	6.30pm	Courtney Harris
Oct 27	6.30pm	Tony Ward

Each Thurs at 6.30pm Prayer & Praise Time
Contacts Jenny Parfitt jennyparfitt@ymail.com
Sue Tett stett56@hotmail.co.uk

AUST EVANGELICAL CHURCH Family Worship 11.00am

For more details contact Danny Bamfield 01454 419324.
e-mail danny@thebamfields.co.uk

LITTLETON EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Evening Worship every Sunday at 6pm for details tel. 413247

RC CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING, Thornbury -

Sun 8.30am Mass 11.00 Family Mass
Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday Mass at 10am
Tel 01454 412223, www.ctk-thornbury.org.uk

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS), Thornbury

Meeting for Worship Sundays 10.30-11.30: The Hanover Room, The Chantry,
Castle St. Wheelchair accessible. Children welcome with prior notice.

Local contact: Brian Hawkins, hawkinsb863@gmail.com 01454 854867
National: www.quaker.org.uk Bristol area: www.bristolquakers.org.uk

Diary Dates for October 2019

The information given below is believed to be correct as we go to press.

1 st Tue	Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee morning Tea/Coffee & Biscuits 50p Monthly Raffle Macular & Low Vision Support Group British Legion Women's Section: National Statistics, by Garry Holden	10.30-12 10.30 7.30	DGCL TMH DGCL
2 nd Wed	Holy Communion followed by tea & cake Table Tennis every Wednesday OPHS	2.30 7-8.30 7.30	DGCL PH OMC
3 rd Thurs	Thornbury Farmers' Market Olveston Playgroup Coffee Shop South Pacific read-through (also 30 Sep)	9-1.30 9.30-11.30 9-12 7.30	MH OS+ PH
4 th Fri	Haven Memory Café Thornbury Carers' Support Group	10.15-11.45 1-3pm	URC Chy
5 th Sat	Coffee Morning 1 st Olveston Scouts, Line of Coins, The Street Jazz Concert, The Mark Randall Six	10.30-12 9-12 7.30	MH StM
6 th Sun			
7 th Mon	U3A Welcome meeting for new & prospective members, Church Hall, Eastbury Rd, Th'y. Monday Movie	3.30 7.30	 StM
8 th Tues	Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee morning Aust Parish Council Thornbury Memory Café WI. Genealogy: Norman Taylor	10.30-12 7.30 10.15-11.45 7.30	DGCL EVH TMH PH
9 th Wed	Table Tennis every Wednesday	7-8.30	PH
10 th Thurs	Coffee Shop Olveston Playgroup South Pacific auditions	9-12 9.30-11.30 7.30	OS+ MH PH
11 th Fri	SPH Golf Day at Thornbury	11am	
12 th Sat	'Flu Clinic for Almondsbury Surgery Coffee Morning Coffee Morning	9-12 10.30-12 10.30-12	OSH AVH MH
13 th Sun	'Stuff & Nonsense - The Musical'	7.30	CH
15 th Tues	Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee morning 'Sew Almondsbury'	10.30-1 7-9	DGCL OSH

16 th Wed	Jazz at The White Hart Olveston	8-10.30	
17 th Thurs	Thornbury Farmers' Market Olveston Playgroup Coffee Shop	9-1.30 9.30-11.30 9-12	MH OS+
18 th Fri	Haven Memory Café OPTA Evening Party/Entertainment	10.15-11.45 6.30-9.30	URC PH
19 th Sat	Coffee Morning Olveston Parish Council Surgery Autumn Supper, phone 610388	10.30-12 10.30-12 7.30	MH MH PH
21 st Mon	Monday Movie	7.30	StM
22 nd Tues	Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee morning Thornbury Memory Café Olveston Parish Council	10.30-12 10.15-11.45 7.30	DGCL TMH AP
23 rd Wed	Alv History Soc - 'Learning from Sabrina' TMTG 'Barnum' 'til 26 th incl Sat Mat	7.30 7.30	AMC AH
24 th Thurs	Coffee Shop	9.00-1.30	OS+
26 th Sat	Coffee Morning	10.30-12	MH
29 th Tues	Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee morning	10.30-12	DGCL
31 st Thurs	Olveston Playgroup Coffee Shop	9.30-11.30 10-12	MH OS+

Looking ahead to November

2 nd Sat	Fireworks, Mundy Playing Fields		
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KEY: AC Aust Church; AH – Armstrong Hall; AMC – Alv Meth. Ch.; AMH- Alv Meth. Hall; AP – Alexandra Pavilion; AVH – Aust Village Hall; ; CH – Cossham Hall; Chy – Chantry ;CS Castle Sch. CTK Christ the King DGCL – Daldry Gardens Community Lounge; EVH – Elberton Village Hall; LVH Littleton Village Hall MH – Olv.Meth.Hall; OMC Olv Meth Ch OS – Olv. School; OS+ – Olv. Stores; OSH Old Sch. Hall Alm; PH – Olv Parish Hall; StM St Mary's Church, Olv.; StMA Almondsbury Church StMT Mary's Thorn TCh Tock Chapel; TBCh - Thornbury Baptist Church; TMH – Thorn. Methodist Hall; ; TMS Tock Manor Sch. URC United Reform Ch, Th.

Contact details for any clubs or organisations in the Meeting Point area can be found in the Meeting Point Directory on the community website: www.olvestonandaust.com. If you would like to update your organisation's details, please email: meetingpointsecretary@olvestonandaust.com

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