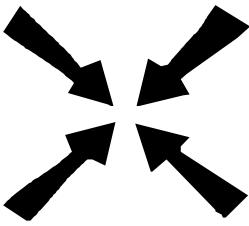


MEETING POINT



APRIL 2014



Meeting Point

Volume 38, Number 7, April 2014

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

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From the Editor

Spring has arrived! Read how they are celebrating this at Olveston School, what bees get up to in spring, which wild animals to look out for and how to distinguish a chiff chaff from a willow warbler from a reed warbler. Parishioners, please make time to come to the Annual Parish Meeting in Aust (April 8th) and the Annual Parish Assembly in Olveston (April 29th).

The magazine starts with a profile of Jennifer Bone and at the back, by a happy coincidence, Yours faithfully is written by her husband David. Church News and Diary section has all the details of Easter services and April events.

Happy reading and Happy Easter!

The cover: a stained glass window, created by Lauren Brown of Bristol Business Centre

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.olvostonandaust.com

Village person: Jennifer Bone

Pat Thirkettle

Jennifer, but known by all as Jenny, is descended from Welsh Methodist mining stock. Her father was the youngest son and the eldest two went down the pit. With money coming in, the next son was apprenticed to a carpenter, and Jenny's father was able to carry out every mining family's wish – to have a son become a teacher. Jenny was born in Tredegar, but two years later her father became headmaster in Llanishen, near Tintern. She has happy memories of a rural childhood during the war and has loved the countryside ever since. Later the family moved back to the Valleys and Jenny went to Pontypool Grammar School for Girls.

She went to Oxford to do a four year course in Theology, and there she met her husband David doing the same course. Jenny then did post-graduate Teacher Training, and when they married they both taught in Northamptonshire. Very soon her mother became seriously ill. After about a year of travelling at weekends to nurse her, they decided to look for jobs in the West Country (the old Severn Bridge had just opened), with David going to Gloucester and Jenny to St Matthias Teacher Training College in Bristol; the A38 being the link, they chose Alveston. They next moved to Plymouth for two years for David's work, and when they moved back to Bristol again they chose Tockington – one of the best decisions they ever made.

The need for teacher training shrank drastically after the baby boom children passed through, and what was left continued in Bristol Polytechnic, where Jenny worked for eight years in the Education Department before being appointed to the Directorate during the transition to University status; UWE as we know it now. The job was hectic but rewarding. Gaining and keeping university status involved much paperwork and visits by national quality bodies. The faculties teach a large number of courses which also lead to a professional award or professional recognition (e.g. law, those related to medicine, engineering and accountancy) and Jenny was the Directorate point of contact with the professional bodies. In the 1990s she was heavily involved in the formation of the new Faculty of Health which incorporated four Nursing Colleges. The government was keen to increase the number of courses offered in further and higher education colleges and she worked with many in Gloucestershire, Somerset, Wiltshire and Wales seeking UWE awards. She particularly enjoyed travelling to and fro between the two Agricultural Colleges, Hartpury in Gloucestershire and Cannington in Somerset. As Pro Vice Chancellor, Jenny sometimes presided over Degree ceremonies. The University of Wales awards were conferred in Welsh, but when conferring UWE awards in Wales, Jenny did it in English, but was very pleased to be able to sing the whole of the Welsh National anthem in Welsh!

In 2000 David and Jenny left UWE and are enjoying a rewarding retirement. Jenny decided to do voluntary work on governing bodies in further and higher education (sometimes as Chair), such as Filton College, and also theological colleges such as Wesley College, Bristol and Sarum College, Salisbury. For a change she also served on the Rail Passenger Committee for the West. She is now able to be a Steward at Olveston and Tockington Methodists and together she and David wrote the history of Tockington Chapel to coincide with its hundredth anniversary. They wrote a book about St Mary's Church at the Millennium, edited a cookery book in 2009 in aid of Aust, and recently published the Christmas Book in aid of Aust Church roof fund. The current project is a History of Aust.

Jenny has always loved music; she sang in her early days, and in contrast liked a bit of rock and roll (apparently that is one of David's accomplishments!). Being an only child, and a girl as well, didn't preclude accompanying her father to rugby matches, and she follows it enthusiastically now.

Jenny and David have been able to keep in touch with friends from University days, and Jenny recently organised a thirty-year reunion of friends from St Matthias College. They both love walking and are working their way along the coastline of Britain, following a 200 year-old route – a fair bit of walking involved!

Women's World Day of Prayer

Every year, for the first Friday in March, Christian women write a service that is prayed, said and sung worldwide. It was compiled this year by Egypt, entitled 'Streams of Living Water' and based on Jesus' meeting with the Samaritan woman at the well. It reflected what women in Egypt are achieving in currently difficult circumstances, and looked towards a better future for all.

Held in Olveston Methodist Church, the service was attended by people (not just women!) from five local churches and the collection raised £147.

Olveston Sports & Social Club

Anyone wishing to book a party between April 1st and Oct 1st can get 50% off booking fee when presenting this copy of Meeting Point. To book, come along and see us any Wednesday or Saturday evening. You are always welcome at our quiz nights - next ones March 1st & 22nd at 8.15pm.

Barbara Lansdown, Secretary.

Olveston & Tockington Methodist Church

March 2nd 2014 was a red letter day in the life of Olveston & Tockington Methodist Church, for it was the tenth anniversary of the two congregations of Olveston Methodist Church and Tockington Methodist Church becoming one congregation – Olveston & Tockington Methodist Church.

In the past 10 years what have we achieved? For a start we have re-ordered both Chapels and redecorated all our premises. We feel that we are now better equipped to serve the communities in which we exist, and we are ready to meet the challenges of being “church” in the 21st century.

We hold two Bible Studies each month and a Prayer Meeting each week on a Tuesday at 9.00 a.m. Our Worship areas are now such that we can be far more flexible with our worship, and these are also available for use by groups or individuals in the community.

Some of things we are able to do are, host our CREAM TEAS on the green in Tockington every Bank Holiday (but not Christmas Day, Boxing Day or New Year’s Day!) which have now become a popular event enjoyed by all the community, and by others from further afield. We also hold our Annual Harvest Fayre on the Green and in Tockington Chapel. We hold two lunch clubs every month, one on the second Wednesday of the month at The White Horse pub in Pilning, and the other at The Swan pub in Tockington on the third Thursday. We also organise 2 coach trips a year and members of the community have expressed interest in these events.

Recently, in co-operation with the Parish Council, we have started an Internet Café in our hall in Olveston. This is held three times a week at present, and is open for personal use, or if you have a problem with your own equipment, come along on a Monday between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.; on a Wednesday between 10.00 a.m. and 12 noon; and on a Friday between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. This of late has not been well attended, and if attendance does not improve, we will have to consider closing it. USE IT OR LOSE IT

Lastly, but certainly not the least important, on the fourth Wednesday of the month we share in the Mid-week Holy Communion Service organised by our friends from St Mary’s, which is held in our Olveston Chapel. So we look forward to the next ten years!

Glyn Varney

Olveston Parish Council Matters

Richard Rogers (olvestonpc@gmail.com)

29th April 2014
Annual Parish Assembly

The meeting is to be held at the Olveston Parish Hall from 7:30pm, and all are invited from 7:15 for Tea/ Coffee. Various works have been completed around the parish since last year's Assembly, and the Parish Council will be using this opportunity to report back to the parish on these and potential activities for the coming year. The parish is also welcoming senior representatives from the police and other local bodies to discuss the significant changes in the services around us.

One of several charges now being passed on by South Glos Council is for emptying the **dog bins** around the parish. It is however permissible to put properly bagged waste into any public bin, and parishioners are encouraged to make every use of these extra facilities, so that the current state of the dirty pavements can be improved.

With spring gathering pace, it is a good time to **prune and manage** those shrubs, bushes and plants that overhang public footpaths. This is part of the house holder's responsibility, and welcomed by all residents.

Mr Geoff Chappell has recently agreed to join Olveston Parish Council, but there is still a vacancy for a further councillor. Applicants are welcome and adverts will shortly be posted on the notice boards, and the website.

Olveston Parish Vision Update

Mark Roper

The Parish Vision group has been busy sifting through the thousands of comments submitted as part of the community questionnaires to ascertain what the community has told us. All the comments have now been summarised into a 'Report of Findings' and, as a point of interest, the community has stated that its top three priorities are traffic/parking/road safety, housing, and the future of local shops and businesses.

All findings will now be published on the website olvestonparishvision.co.uk and it is also our intention to present these results at the Annual Parish Assembly on the 29th April.

Aust Parish Council Matters

Tim Pyper
(austparishcouncil@googlemail.com)

The Annual Parish Meeting - Tuesday 8th April 2014

This will be held in Elberton Village Hall on Tuesday 8th April 2014 at 7pm (note the slightly earlier time than usual). This is your chance to discuss matters affecting the parish – there will be an open forum. Our ward Councillor, Matthew Riddle will talk about South Gloucestershire Council's plans and our chairman will present the Parish Council's report. All residents of the parish, and anyone else interested, will be welcome.

A meeting of the Parish Council will take place immediately after that meeting ends.

Proposed Windfarm at Ingst

We expect the planning committee to consider this application at its April meeting (probably 24th April). All the local Parish Councils oppose the application. If however it does get permission, the developer will have to establish a community benefit fund. Olveston, Pilning and Severn Beach and Aust Parish Councils, as those most affected, have agreed on a joint approach to the developers to ensure that it is set up in such a way that it will be under the control of local people.

A working group from the three Parish Councils is taking legal advice as to how this should best be set up and operated. We will probably create our own charitable trust with two trustees nominated by each of the three Parish Councils to decide how any money received should be spent in the three parishes.

Possible Parish Plan

As mentioned in last month's Meeting Point, the Parish Council is considering whether there is a need for a parish plan. Some of you have said you would be interested in helping with this – it's not too late to offer to help so let your Councillor know if you would like to be involved.

Advance notice

Littleton at Home

Littleton-on-Severn Sunday 15th June 2014 2.00pm – 6.00 pm

Littleton will be at home with open gardens on Sunday 15th June between 2 and 6 pm. More details next month.

Spring at Olveston School - 'One Less Egg'

Olveston School is currently working towards the 'Rights Respecting School' award and, as part of this project, this term we want to support families living in poverty abroad. Our Rights Respecting champions have been learning that 'sending money' is not always the most effective way to help children and families and so have recently launched their Easter charity campaign – 'Don't Give an Egg, Give an Egg Factory.' The idea is that children ask for 'One Less Egg' at Easter and instead donate the price of the Easter egg to our collection. We will then take the money to Oxfam in Thornbury to buy gift cards which give chickens and training to look after them to families in poverty around the world. Our target is to raise £300. In keeping with this theme our Reception children are keeping watch over a dozen bantam eggs and the whole school is eagerly awaiting our chickens which will be coming to school in the last week of term as a trial run – hopefully they will be a success and could become a permanent fixture in our school.

During the last week of term (Mon 31st March – Fri 4th April) we will also be taking part in the South Gloucestershire 'Big Spring Clean'. Led by our Eco Warriors we will be spending time cleaning the school and grounds and hope to spread out into the community – look out for our litter pickers around the village. We would welcome any members of the community who would like to join our 'Big Spring Clean'. Please contact the School Office on 01454 613299 to register your interest.



'Rights Respecting' champions at Olveston School

Advance notice

Olveston School Fun Run

This year the fun run is on Sunday 8 June with a 1K course around the school field for younger runners and a 5K course starting and ending at the school. All runners receive a medal. Entry forms are available on the website or from Nicola Bushell on 01454 612173. If you would like to be involved but don't fancy running, we would welcome help marshalling the course. During the last two years this has proved to be a really fun, family event. Please contact Nicky Browne for more information on 07769 171 772
www.olvestonschoolfunrun.org

OPTA Update

The Olveston Parish Twinning Association (OPTA) began its activities this year with a very successful quiz, held in the Parish Hall back in February. It was well-attended and great fun. As well as fund raising for OPTA, we donated the proceeds of the raffle - £70 - to Riding for the Disabled which was the winning team's choice of charity.

Wine Challenge April 11th

Our next event is the Wine Challenge, which is being held in the Parish Hall on Friday 11th April at 7.30pm. Tickets for this very popular village event have been selling very briskly but, if you would like to attend, please ring Noel Clark on 01454 614099.

Visit to Brehan 2014

Our friends in Brehan have invited us to visit them in May and we are busy finalizing dates and suitable ferry crossings. We keep the cost of the trip as low as possible and, as in previous years, we will not charge for any school-age children who come along. Normally we leave Olveston in the afternoon of the Friday, travel overnight to France and arrive in Brehan at about midday on the Saturday. Once in Brehan, all our accommodation, food and trips out are taken care of by our hosts. It is always great fun and you do not need to be a fluent French speaker to have a good time – in fact quite a few of us have only very basic French. We travel back in the daytime on the Monday, arriving back into Olveston at about midnight.

If you would be interested in coming on this trip to France please contact Noel on 01454 614099 for further information.

Flights of Fancy – Warblers *Trevor Cook*

If there is such a thing as a “sung hero”, then it has to be the warbler. Shy and elusive, it is more often heard than seen.

Did I mention that the blackcap is a warbler? If you did have a blackcap in your garden this winter, you will be rewarded now by its lilting song rolling out of the bushes whilst it remains elusive.

People say that spring only begins when the ubiquitous chiffchaff begins to chant its name in late March. One or two seem to like the trees along Catherine Hill by the M48 motorway bridge but they are indeed everywhere.

Its cousin the willow warbler will also arrive. Unfortunately, if you do see it, it will be almost indistinguishable from the chiffchaff; the difference mainly down to the colour of the legs, black for a chiffchaff and flesh coloured for a willow warbler. Oh! And a slight tinge of yellow on the willow warbler. But of course you have to find them first and the beginning of April is a good time as there is no leaf cover. But if you don't immediately see them, hear them you will, the chiffchaff certainly chanting to distraction, the willow warbler with its descending, rolling and musical song.



Lesser Whitethroat ©Ken Billington



Reed Warbler
©Magnus Manske

One more to listen out for is the reed warbler which can be heard and seen amongst the reeds on either side of the Aust ferry landing. Its squeakier, scratchy song also announces the arrival of warmer times.

You may also find the sedge warbler, which as you may have already guessed lives more in the hedges and bushes near the water. Both are sometimes found along Greenditch Street. Look for the sedge warbler's white eye-stripe.

If you are cycling or walking along Greenditch look out for the slightly more colourful lesser whitethroat with its eponymous white throat and with a grey head. Alternatively, go to the lagoons around Oldbury Power Station where lesser whitethroats abound; go to the website

<http://www.opsbirds.webspace.virginmedia.com/> to see what is there.

Warblers force us to be bird listeners, listen to these and more at the RSPB <http://www.rspb.org.uk/wildlife/birdguide/name/>

Spring - Bees, Swarms and Honey

Alan Jones

Last month's article on the arrival of spring mentioned a number of signs that winter is ending; another is the first flights of the honey bee in search of nectar and pollen.

Over the last few years there has been a lot of media attention in respect of the dwindling numbers of bees. Whilst this situation is ongoing and research continues into the causes of this, we can all do a little to help the bee, and other pollinators.... When considering your garden for this summer or out buying plants at the garden centre, please think of the bee and buy one or two bee friendly plants to provide them with an additional nectar source: the internet or the garden centre will help identify what is right for you and the bees. One of the upsides of the media interest is that more people have become enthusiastic about keeping bees and there are now a number of colonies of bees in our area busily working away, so every little helps.

We are also approaching the time when you may see a swarm of bees, allowing the bees to multiply into additional colonies and help with their survival. Beekeepers will aim to limit and control swarming but it is nature's way. Bees swarm usually between mid May and early July and can be re-housed. This is preferable to them being feral, which can cause disease to spread unchecked through other colonies. Should you come across a swarm, then contact me on the number below and hopefully they can stay in the locality to help our crops and plants.

In return for looking after them, the bees reward us with honey. In these days, when we are all interested in where our food comes from and talk about carbon footprints and food miles, it's good to know that the local honey available in Olveston can be measured in food metres rather than miles: bees and weather permitting, there will be a 2014 vintage available in June.

If you would like more information on beekeeping, or if you have a swarm of bees, call me on 07964 785073

Litter Picking

Will Litter Pickers please meet on Saturday 26 April at the Parish Hall car park at 1.00pm? Everything provided. As part of South Gloucestershire Council's 'Big Spring Clean' initiative, Tockington Manor School and Olveston School are both holding litter picking sessions during March and April.

Rod Williams, 612850.

April

Angela Daymond

The daylight hours are now outlasting the dark and we are well into mid spring. They say April showers bring May flowers. But after this winter perhaps it would be nice if we could forgo that last part?

Badger cubs will be emerging from their dens around now. Having been born in January/February they are big enough to venture out to play in the moonlight and learn to dig for worms. Badgers belong to the mustelid group of animals; meaning they are the fat cousins of stoats, weasels and otters, these latter three live by hunting prey, while badgers have evolved to scavenge, they have no need to be so sleek for the chase of prey. Look out for their setts in the woods; they differ from rabbit warrens by being that much bigger and having distinctive mounds in front of them from their constant digging out and spring cleaning. Some setts are hundreds of years old as badgers don't go far.

As Easter falls this month, no doubt Easter bunny will feature on many a card. Original pagan bunnies were probably hares, as rabbits are an introduced species. Romans and later Normans brought them here as food supplies. A doe rabbit can give birth to a litter of 3 to 7 kits every five or six weeks. The kits themselves are ready to breed within four months! This amazing talent for multiplying is good news indeed for our predatory animals and birds. Weasels and stoats, also foxes and buzzards exploit this bounty of available meat.

Bluebells peak in April, capturing the sunlight before the trees they grow underneath unfurl their leaves fully. Along with the highly scented ramsons, or wild garlic as it's also known; our woodland becomes a temporary sensory room with sound, smells and sights all around.

Scouting ... helping young people get the most out of life

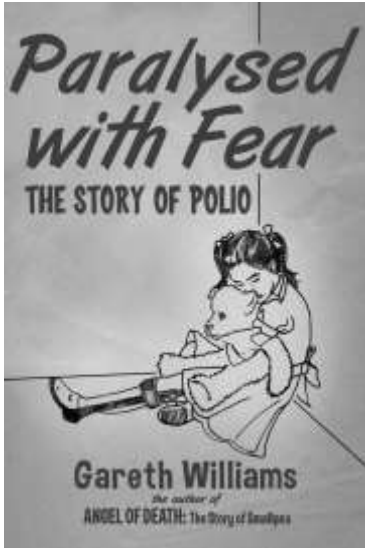
CAN YOU HELP?

1st Olveston Scout Group needs a volunteer manager. The position requires someone with good organisational and team leadership skills, vision, and a good sense of humour. You will be responsible for the management of the adult leaders rather than running the Scout meetings for the children and young people. We have a group of dedicated and self motivated leaders who are looking for help and support to develop and build an effective team - delivering Scouting to our young people. Training and support will be given for this exciting role.

If you are interested and would like to know more, please contact SUE GILLETT on 01454 414 050 or email sue.gillett@avonscouts.org.uk

Paralysed with Fear: The Story of Polio

Olveston Parish Historical Society: **Wednesday 2 April 2014, 7.30pm**
Methodist Church, The Street, Olveston BS35 4DR



Gareth Williams, ex-Dean of Medicine at the University of Bristol, is - as those who have heard him tell the story of Jenner and smallpox will know - a terrific storyteller. The Guardian review of his latest “punchy” book said: “The history of polio and its treatment is one of dead ends, missed opportunities and downright skulduggery”.

Throughout the first half of the 20th century, epidemics swept America, Scandinavia, the UK, Australia and Africa and, in 1952, polio was cited as Americans’ greatest fear, after nuclear attack. While millions of people died or were paralysed, scientists argued and competed, championing their chosen theories and sometimes distorting the results of their research. Gareth Williams has researched this story and will reveal all.

Everyone welcome - £2 on the door.

Website: <http://www.olveston.com/historical-society>

Internet Café

Glyn Varney

Just a reminder that an Internet Café is available for users in the Methodist Hall in Olveston. You may use our equipment to send e-mails, browse the web, do your weekly shop on line or even speak to relatives and friends on the other side of the world, on Skype. Or perhaps you are having problems with your own equipment, so why don't you pop in and have a chat with one of our staff, who will be pleased to help you?

We are open at the following times:-

Monday	2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.
Wednesday	10.00 a.m. to 12 noon
Friday	7.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m.

Hello Dolly!

Barbie Davies

How do The Parish Players do it? Each year they pack audiences and quality productions into the delightful but tiny Tockington Village Hall. Their secret lies in an excellent team. Bristol Old Vic trained Linda Evans always makes the right choice of musical and expertly guides the company into producing a most professional production. No wonder NODA has awarded her a silver bar for 45 years' service to amateur theatre.

Thornton Wilder's comedy "The Matchmaker" was transformed by Jerry Herman into a punchy musical. The challenges for set are considerable. However, in the capable and creative hands of Andy Black and the very efficient stage crew, the action was made to travel effortlessly from hat shop to feedstore, restaurant or street scene, all set against wonderful abstract images of 1890s New York. (What is his secret that also allows him to play the demanding role of the grouchy Horace Vandergelder with huge panache?) Richard Churchill and Tom Grey added much atmosphere with sensitive and well-timed lighting effects. Well chosen, colourful and even amusing props and costumes completed the feast for the eye.

The music itself is perhaps not the most memorable, with the exception of "Hello Dolly". However, the cast made the most of it with attack and enthusiasm. They were expertly supported by the crisp, pacy direction and accompaniment headed by Chloe Allsopp-Jones. A most memorable scene was that set in an upper-class restaurant where the action has to dash between tables and waiters, who thoroughly deserved the warm applause for their amusing but complicated routine. Every member of the cast worked extremely hard with many playing several characters, and all having to maintain demanding dialogue in American accents. They also carried off a variety of lively space-defying dance routines conceived by choreographer Jill Harris.

Linda Chappell as the flirtatious Ernestina, Richard Newley and Esther Sully as the thwarted lovers gave some delightful, well-timed comic moments. Ray Hale (another NODA silver medallist) and Chris Bentley as the two shop assistants determined to find excitement in their humdrum lives, complemented each other beautifully and won the audience with their boyish antics. Amy Sunderland sparkled in her confident performance of Minnie, and, once initial nerves were settled, Lesley Clarke made a charmingly mischievous Irene Malloy. Laura Pritchard invested an enormous amount of energy in her substantial role creating a warm, sparky and winning Dolly.

The late Mike Huish, a stalwart of the Parish Players, to whom the production was dedicated, would have been very proud of everyone on and off the stage.

Goodbye Dear Friend

Parish Player 14

Many who attended the last night of "Hello Dolly" have been in touch to ask after the horse that collapsed in the opening scene after drawing on the coach carrying Dolly. If you were there you will not need reminding of that sad, poignant, moment. Many felt the performance should have been halted there and then, but it was decided Xanthus would have wanted the show to go on, for that's the sort of horse he was.

Xanthus, for that's how we knew him, was named after the first of Achilles' immortal steeds - mentioned in Homer's, Iliad 2. 760 "Tell me then, Mousa, who of them all [of the Greeks at Troy] was the best and bravest of the men, and the men's horses . . . Akhilleus [Achilles] was far best of all of them, and the horses also [Xanthus and Balios] who carried the blameless son of Peleus."

We're not sure of Xanthus's history. He came to us from a Cotswold horse sanctuary and when not needed on-stage was pastured on Old Down Hill.

No one knew his age. For most he seemed to have been with us forever, a mentor, a much-loved member of the family and it would have been considered ungracious and insensitive to try to count his teeth.

He was treasured by all we Players and who will ever forget how, when sitting dejected after forgetting a line or singing off-tune or being out of step in a dance routine, Xanthus would come up and give us a comforting nuzzle? It seems typical of his dedication that he saw Dolly safely on-stage on the last night of the show before taking his final curtain call. A trouper to the end.

Xanthus, old friend, you will always be with us. Not gone, just resting.

Old Down Cricket Club

150 Club Winners March:

£50 James Finch

£15 Ian Watkins

£5 Dave Lippiatt

Latest £25 Bonus Ball Winners:

8th February Barbara Binns

22nd February

Dave Buckley

1st March Diane Grosvenor

8th March

Angus MacDonald

Preparations for the new season are in full swing; please contact me for details of Colts & Senior Nets & membership. New members always welcome!!

Up the Down!!

Tony Gardner 07889 727729

Update on The Friends of Daldry Gardens

At the February AGM the following were elected as the committee:

Roly Bain (Hon President), Mike Lewis (Chairman) for third year, Sue Jones (Secretary), Maureen Lewis (Treasurer), John Ellis, Pauline Kerrigan, Chris Walsh, Pam Vincent

The group has raised almost £5,000 in 3 years and used the bulk of it to provide events and functions both internally and externally for residents of all ages, including the more senior ones! We have run excursions to several places of interest and to TV studios; held barbecues, lunches, takeaways, film nights, bingo nights, quiz nights and much more. We have promoted two 3-act variety shows in St Mary's. The group has purchased many items, including a smart TV and a mini hi-fi system for the communal lounge and also tends the hanging baskets, flower pots and the communal garden. We have supported local charities and taken part in local fairs. Various fund-raising schemes are employed by us throughout the year. Every Tuesday at 10.30 a coffee morning is held, with a raffle taking place on the 1st Tuesday in each month. All are welcome to join us for this relaxing couple of hours of chat and fun.

On two Wednesdays each month (usually the 2nd and 4th) there is a movie night. Films range from the latest releases to classics from the past. A list is displayed in the communal lounge or is available from the Chairman by e-mail at mikequiz@btinternet.com.

On the 1st Wednesday of each month Holy Communion is conducted in the communal lounge by June Robbins at 2.30pm. This is followed by tea and biscuits (cake if you're lucky!). We would like some new faces - particularly males.

Also on the 1st Wednesday of each month a Bingo session is held at 7.30pm - also in the communal lounge. Everyone welcomed.

Mike Lewis (Chairman)

From the registers of St Mary's Olveston

21st February 2014

Burial in churchyard of Keith John Jones

Parenting Course with Alison Rowe

Following another successful course, attendees wanted to share their experiences and recommend the course ...

"The parenting course was an excellent way to get different perspectives on parenting and the issues that we all will have to face. Also to meet other mums and get some ideas." *New Mum - baby 5 months*

"The course provided me with practical guidance and help for every day parenting; covering topics from TV time to enforcing boundaries. I would recommend this course to all parents, particularly as an effective tool to facilitate conversations between parents on how they want to raise their children." *Emma, (mother of two aged 2 and 4)*

"The recent parenting course run by Alison Rowe has proved so valuable for me and my family. It not only explored many important aspects of family life (attitudes, boundaries, relationships, goals) but essentially gave practical steps which could be immediately incorporated into the family unit. Alison provided a relaxed, supportive group in which we could share, laugh and reflect on our own experiences. This course is a must and I think my daughters are thankful for a more patient mummy!" *Emma (mum to two daughters, aged 8 & 6)*

"I would highly recommend this course. It was lovely to meet other mum's and chat about our parenting experiences in a relaxed setting. The DVDs were really thought provoking and at times very funny. They gave honest and helpful tips on parenting young children appreciating all the difficulties and emotions that come with it! Topics such as, teaching children to manage their anger; love languages; and setting boundaries have been invaluable to me and I have managed to implement this into my family life. I feel more in control and hopefully a more understanding parent!" *Lizzie (mum to 3 children 8, 6 & 3)*

Alison Rowe writes: 'I will probably be starting another course after Easter. It might be best for people to contact me if they are interested and we will find a mutually convenient time.'

Contact Alison on amrowe@hotmail.co.uk or tel. 613223.

Marlwood School PTA Quiz Night

Thursday April 24th 7:00pm

£10:00 for a team 8 BBQ & Bar

Contact: Jill Pearce 01454 271726

Severn Vale Art Trail 2014

The Thornbury Arts Festival is pleased to present its **Severn Vale Art Trail at the beginning of May 2014**. The trail will take place before the festival week this year, still incorporating the May bank holiday. Following the trail you can look forward to being entertained by the exciting events on offer during the Arts Festival week.

Please put these dates in your diary:

- The **“Showcase Exhibition” in the Town Hall** precedes the trail from **Wednesday 23rd April to Thursday 1st May**.
- The trail begins on **Friday May 2nd** and finishes on **Sunday May 11th**.
- The **Thornbury Arts Festival** takes place from the **9th to the 18th of May after the trail**.

Several new artists are joining the trail this year. We have two new ceramicists, a photographer, a stained glass maker, machine embroiderer and a paper-cut artist amongst the painters exhibiting with the trail for the first time. To visit them in their own homes and studios is a fascinating reminder of the great talent that exists locally behind closed doors.

In addition to artists' personal venues we are lucky to be offered the following shared venues ; the Thornbury Pound Gallery, Thornbury Museum, the Whitsun Hall at The Hatch in Thornbury, Celebration Fairs, The TomatoJack Gallery in Berkeley and St. Mary's Church in Thornbury. Many of the Thornbury artists may be visited on a walking trail throughout the town – a treasure trail indeed!

There are more artists to the north of the trail this year - in Berkeley, Wick, Dursley and North Nibley. Following a trail to access the work of painters, textile artists, wood turners, photographers, jewellers and fused glass works is an exciting way to spend your time and is a chance to purchase a fresh work of art for your home. Brochures are available from Thornbury Town Hall and in outlets in the surrounding towns and villages.

Enquiries to janeparfittrail@fsmail.net

Thornbury Picture House - 'Even The Rain' (15)
Cossham Hall, 7.30 pm, Friday April 25, £5 on the door for non-members

Subtitled drama about the gripping experiences of a Spanish film crew, in Bolivia to shoot a low budget motion picture about Christopher Columbus.

Oveston & Tockington WI

In April Astrid Domingo Molyneux (who lives in Almondsbury) will tell us her story of cycling alone around the world.

Astrid took two years off from her job at Bristol University to go on a journey to promote the work of the Leprosy Mission in India and Nepal, and the Deaf Studies Trust. Few of us could dream of setting out on such a cycle ride. There were times when she found herself in dangerous situations but highlights included the hospitality and generosity she received from people along the way and thrills such as cycling over a 5,200 metres high pass in Tibet. She was away from home and family for two years during which time she cycled approximately 20,000 miles and visited 28 countries.

We're all looking forward to hearing of her adventures on 8th April at the Parish Hall. Visitors are welcome. The meeting will start at 7.30 and Astrid's talk at 8pm.



Northavon Youth Theatre Company

Presents **Cole Porter's**

Anything Goes

Music and Lyrics by Cole Porter
Original Book by P G Wodehouse, Guy Bolton,
Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse

16 ~ 19 April, Weds, Thurs & Sat: 7.30 pm

Friday: 3.00 pm

Saturday Matinée: 2.30 pm

Armstrong Hall, Thornbury

Telephone & Advance Bookings: **07980 543691**

Box Office: Wildings, Thornbury High Street

[from 31 March]

www.nytc.org.uk

An amateur performance by arrangement with MusicScope and Stage Musicals
Ltd of New York.

Produced by arrangement with, and the music and dialogue furnished by
MusicScope, 75 Furnival Street, Crewe, Cheshire, CW2 7LH

Movies at St Mary's: April *Trevor Anderson*



St Mary's Movie Club in Olveston is now well into its fourth year. We show films for the 'grown-ups' on the first and third Monday evenings of each month and for 'children of all ages' every Monday morning during school holidays.

Our Movie Club programmes for the Spring have just been published and you can pick up copies from just inside the church door. If you are already a member, you'll have received your copies by email.

Monday Movies (*Recent releases and ever-popular classics*)

Mon 7th April at 7.30pm: "Still shakin' it, boss." Paul Newman in his blue-eyed prime stars in one of the greatest prison flicks ever made. (1967) *Cert 15*

Monday Movies Extra (*'Non-mainstream' films and historic classics*)

Mon 21st April at 7.30pm: Gregory Peck won an Oscar as the Southern lawyer who defends a black man accused of rape in this film of the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel. (1962) *Cert 12*

Children's Movie Club (*Every Monday morning in the school hols*)

Mon 7th April at 10.00am: Re-discover the story of Peter Pan as you've never seen it before and be swept off your feet to a Neverland you'd never dreamt possible. (2003) *Cert PG*

Mon 14th April at 10.00am: A classic fairy tale, with swordplay, giants, an evil prince, a beautiful princess, and yes, some kissing (as read by a kindly grandfather). (1987) *Cert PG*

Mon 21st April at 10.00am: Disney's 1994 animated feature about the adventures of a young lion cub as he struggles to accept his responsibilities as king of the jungle. (1994) *Cert U*

Refreshments available at all the shows. Admission is free although a **donation** at the end towards expenses is always appreciated. 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. **Lent Films.** Our final two films for 2014 are at **7.30pm on Tuesdays, April 1st and 8th**. Again, admission is free and everyone is welcome.

Swimming helpers

Thornbury Stroke Support Group urgently needs a few more men to help with the Monday morning swimming sessions at Thornbury pool. It's a very sociable gathering and you don't have to be a good swimmer or feel obliged to attend every week. It lasts from about 09.30 to 11.30am, rounded off with coffee in the café. If you can help, please call Ann Cant on 418772.

News from St Mary's, Olveston

Roly Bain

Needs must

Times are hard for many in these cash-strapped days. If you are in the midst of financial crisis and need a little helping hand, St Mary's now has access to grants of £50 -£200 to help if you can't find the money for kids' football boots, a new washing machine or whatever. Roly also has vouchers for NW Foodbank if you need food for three days to tide you over. It's all done in the strictest confidence. There's no shame in accepting help when it's needed.

Application may be made to Roly Bain at The Vicarage, Olveston, [roly@rolybain.co.uk/616593](mailto:roly@rolybain.co.uk); or Sue Farr, 3 Green Court, Olveston, [farrdoodie@hotmail.com/614861](mailto:farrdoodie@hotmail.com); or Nita Slaytor, Court Lodge, Upper Tockington Road, [nitapslaytor@aol.com/612675](mailto:nitapslaytor@aol.com).

Both grabbers and givers!

At the end of April St Mary's has its annual meeting when the accounts are presented, and we're very grateful to the Treasurer, David Prothero, who has to deal with a turnover of over £100,000. To those who still insist that St Mary's is just a bunch of money grabbers, can I respectfully point out that the accounts will show that we gave away £22,000 last year, which ain't bad at all, and we applied for and got a grant of £2,247 for the defibrillator in Tockington from the Filton & District Community Action Group. A majority of that money, £15,500 went to the MAF Appeal, but hefty chunks also went to the Philippines, the Children's Society, Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust, Leukaemia Research, Kidney Research, the British Legion, the Salvation Army, Changing Tunes (the prison charity) and the Scripture Union. Nearer home £400 went to the Parish Council towards the school car park, and £250 to the scouts. On top of that, a number of collections at funerals went to various charities but those don't go through the accounts. We have to give nearly £50,000 to the Diocese each year as our 'parish share', so it's little wonder we have to raise so much money. But I hope you can see that if we do grab with one hand, we certainly give it away with the other. We hope to launch another major appeal later in the year. Meanwhile the Treasurer has let it be known that it costs £250 a day or £10 an hour for our present running costs.

Bonnets and Bows

On Easter Monday, April 21st, St Mary's is having another Bonnets & Bows Lunch at Hillside House, Haw Lane. It will be in the marquees on the lawn, and dress code must include an Easter bonnet or a bow tie. A three course meal will be provided for the princely sum of £12.50. Tickets may be purchased from June Robbins 617491 or Roly 616593. It is always a splendid occasion, a bar will be provided, and there will be some entertainment.

Yours Faithfully

David Bone

There may well be a new correspondent for this column when next it is the turn of St John's, Aust. This particular contributor (17 since 1997) is faced each time with the same problems: trying for it not to sound too much like a sermon, trying to make it topical and relevant to as many as possible in the wider community, and, worst of all, trying to anticipate what may turn up in the month between writing the piece and the MP issue. For example, what will be the outcome of the crisis in the Ukraine? Will the flood waters eventually recede, and Muchelney no longer be an island? And, closer to home, will the green box for fibre optic Broadband at the end of Hardy Lane be re-sited?

In the warp and woof of affairs, international, national or parochial, it is seldom easy to be absolutely sure of the right approach, and one of the problems for a clergyperson commentating on them is that so many folk assume *they* know what the clergyperson thinks, and can predict what he/she is going to say. At least, with the broadcaster John Ebdon (one of my heroes, who often did *Thought for the Day*), they would have been right in two respects; Ebdon would start each programme with the words "How do you do", and end with "If you have been, thanks for listening".

In 1968, when space exploration was at its most intense, Ebdon became the Director of the London Planetarium. He could never understand why many scientists lost their faith in God. He wrote:

As man probes deeper and deeper into outer space, increasingly more of its secrets will be given up. Yet, paradoxically, the more man learns, the more he will realise how little he knows. The newly acquired knowledge should also bring about a great realisation of God.

As we approach another Good Friday and Easter, some of us will indeed be praying for such a deeper realisation of God. It sometimes seems that mankind can probe deeper and deeper into all sorts of evil; yet paradoxically, without the horror of that first Good Friday, there can be no Easter. Because, thanks be to God, some of us believe that God is good, and that mankind is made in his image, and, amazingly, because of the death and resurrection of God himself, in the person of his son Jesus Christ, mankind too, by the grace of God, is enabled and emboldened to rise above such horror as the trenches of WW1, or the evil of the concentration camps of WW2. That is how and why we can dare to sing Alleluia. Predictable? Perhaps; I'll just borrow from John Ebdon and close with "If you have been, thanks for reading this."

Church News

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, OLVESTON

Apr 6	8am	Holy Communion	Rev Philip Rowe
	10am	Holy Communion	Rev P. Rowe & Mr T. Cook
	10am	Breakfast Club	Breakfast Club Team
	6pm	Evensong	Mrs Janet McBride
Apr 13	8am	Holy Communion(BCP)	Rev Roly Bain
	10am	Palm Sunday Procession and Holy Communion(Choir)	Rev Roly Bain & Mr Daniel Foot
	10am	Breakfast Club	Breakfast Club Team
	6pm	Holy Communion	Rev. Philip Rowe
Apr 17	7.30	Maundy Thurs. Agape Supper	Rev R Bain& Mr D Jones
Apr 18	2pm	Last Hour with Choir	Rev R Bain
Apr 20	6.30	Dawn Eucharist	Rev Roly Bain
	8am	Holy Communion	Rev Roly Bain
	10am	Holy Communion with Choir	Rev Roly Bain
	10am	Breakfast Club	Breakfast Club Team
	6pm	Evensong	Rev. Philip Rowe
Apr 27	8am	Holy Communion(BCP)	Rev David Bone
	10am	Fourth Sunday	Rev R. Bain/Lesley Clarke
	10am	Breakfast Club	Breakfast Club Team
	6pm	Evensong (BCP) with Choir	Rev Philip Rowe

Information on services correct at time of going to press.

Rev Philip Rowe, 01454 613223; email: office@stmaryssevernside.org.uk

Rev Roly Bain for Baptisms, Marriages & Funerals 01454 616593.

Verger: Mrs. June Robbins, 01454 617491

www.stmarysolveston.org.uk/index.html

PRAYER GROUP: Mondays, 2.45pm in the Church

WEDNESDAY HOLY COMMUNION: At 9.00am led by the **Rev. Roly Bain** except 4th Wed when it is at Olveston Methodist Church

CHAPELRY OF ST JOHN, AUST

Apr 13	10am	Morning Prayer with Donkey Procession at 11.15	Rev David Bone
Apr 20	10am	Family Service with Easter Communion	Rev David Bone

Hon. Curate: Rev David Bone, 01454 614601

Church Wardens: Terry McLeavy 633680 Janet Ford 633300

ST MARY DE MALMESBURY, LITTLETON-ON-SEVERN

Apr 6	9am	Matins	Mrs Tracey Black
Apr 20	8am	Holy Communion	Rev. David Pole

Tuesday 8th 2.30pm P.C.C. A.G.M. Village Hall

Contact: Rev. David Pole 01454 414810; www.sthelensalveston.org

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON

Apr 13	9am	Matins	Sandra Edgerton
Apr 20	9am	Holy Communion	Rev. David Pole
Apr 27	9am	Holy Communion	Rev. David Pole

Contact: Rev. David Pole 01454 414810; www.sthelensalveston.org

OLVESTON AND TOCKINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

Apr 6	10am 6pm	Tock. Ch. St Andrews.	Morning Worship led by Mrs Lesley Parker Evening Worship led by Mr Chris Sledge
Apr 13	10am	Olv. Ch.	All Age Worship led by Rev. Pete Brazier.
Apr 20	10am	Tock. Ch.	Morning Worship for Easter Sunday led by Mrs Rosalie Doyle
Apr 27	10am	Olv. Ch.	Morning Worship led by Mr Glyn Varney

NORTHWICK LUNCHEON GROUP: This meets at 12.30pm on Wednesday 9th April. To book your lunch please ring 416528

TOCKINGTON LUNCHEON GROUP meets at 12.15 in the Swan Tockington on Thurs 17th April.

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

PRAYER MEETINGS Tuesdays 9.00-10.00 in Olv. Methodist Church.

HOUSE GROUPS One on Tuesday 8th April at 10.30am at 7 The Green Olveston. led by Mr Glyn Varney or Mrs Rosalie Doyle Another on the 23rd April at 10.30 at 3 Hardy Lane Tockington led by Rev Sandy Williams .

THE OLVESTON INTERNET CAFÉ Olveston Methodist Hall

Monday 2-4pm Wednesday 10-12 Friday 7-9pm

Ring 07833354672 or 07957433091 for further information.

CREAM TEAS Easter Monday 21st April from 2.30-5.00 in Tockington Chapel/The Green

CONTACT: Rev Pete Brazier Tel 01454 418176,

e-mail pete@thebigfishcafe.co.uk

THE VINE, AWKLEY

The Vine, Pilning Street, Awkley

We meet in a relaxed, informal manner for worship, prayer & conversational Bible studies incorporating Communion, 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

Apr 6	6.30pm	Lyll Drewitt
Apr 13	6.30pm	Paul Ashford
Apr 20	6.30pm	Vision of Hope
Apr 27	6.30pm	Bristol Evangelical Male Voice Choir

Each Thurs at 7.00pm Bible Study & Prayer Time

For further information please contact **Ceri Morgan-Davies** 413043

Paul Ashford, 07774 110 814 or email: **Paul@CalebGroup.net**

AUST EVANGELICAL CHURCH Family Worship 11.00am

'The Door' for young people on the last Sunday at 7pm

www.THEDOORYOUTH.CO.UK or tel 07837234949

For more details, please phone 632564.

LITTLETON EVANGELICAL CHURCH

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

RC CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING, Thornbury -

Sat Vigil Mass 18.00 Sun 8.30am Mass 11.00 Family Mass

Tel 01454 412223 www.ctlk-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: Ben & Candia Barman 01454 412603

National: **www.quaker.org.uk** Bristol area: **www.bristolquakers.org.uk**

Diary Dates for April 2014

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

1 st Tue	Tockington Toddlers Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning R.B.L.-Women's Section Riding for Disabled Lent Film	9.30-11.30 10.30-12.00 7.30pm 7.30pm	WR DGCL DGCL StM
2 nd Wed	Every Wed & Fri Vic Hallett Library open O.P.H.S Story of Polio	10-12am 7.30pm	OMC
3 rd Thu	Thornbury Farmer's Market Coffee Shop Olveston Toddlers Open Mic. At White Hart	9.00-1.30 9.00-12.00 1.45-3.15 8.30pm	OS+ MH
5 th Sat	Coffee Morning St Peter's Hospice Spring Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00 10.00-12.00	MH TMH
6 th Sun	Bingo every Sun at Sports & Social club	8.15	AP
7 th Mon	Monday Movie	7.30pm	StM
8 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning Memory Café Women's Institute Lent Film Aust Annual Parish Meeting & Parish Council	9.30-11.30 10.30-12.00 10.15 7.30pm 7.30pm 7.00pm	WR DGCL TMH PH StM EVH
10 th Thu	Coffee Shop	10.00-12.00	OS+
11 th Fri	O.P.T.A.(Twinning Assn) Wine challenge	7.30pm	PH
12 th Sat	Coffee Morning Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00 10.30-12.00	AVH MH
15 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning R.B.L.-Women's Section Bingo	9.30-11.30 10.30-12.00 7.30pm	WR DGCL DGCL
16 th Wed	Jazz at the White Hart Olveston Anything Goes (NYT)-19 th also matinees 3pm Fri & 2.30pm Sat Hammer Out Support Group Meeting 'Bosom Buddies' 32 Oakleaze Rd Thornbury CRUK AGM @ Thornbury Hosp.	8.30pm 7.30pm 10.30-12.00 7.30pm 7.30pm	AH
17 th Thu	Thornbury Farmer's Market Coffee Shop	9.00-1.30pm 10.00-12.00	OS+
19 th Sat	Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00	MH
21 st Mon	Teas on Tockington Green/Chapel	2.30-5pm	

	Monday Movie Extra	7.30pm	StM
22 nd Tue	Tockington Toddlers Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning Memory Café Olveston Parish Council	9.30-11.30 10.30-12.00 10.15 7.30pm	WR DGCL TMH AP
23 rd Wed	Beat Surgery OTTC(Tennis Club) A.G.M.	10.30-11.30 8pm	OS+ PH
24 th Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Toddlers Safer Stronger Community Group Marlwood School P.T.A. Quiz	9.00-12.00 1.45-3.15 7.30pm 7.00pm	OS+ MH AVH
25 th Fri	Th. Picture House 'Even the Rain'	7.30pm	CH
26 th Sat	Coffee Morning Litter Pick Marlwood Car Boot Sale Teatime Cabaret concert ACT: Johnny Coppin's Borderland Concert	10.30-12.00 1pm 1.30-3pm 3.30pm 7.30pm	OS+ PH CH URC
28 th Mon	Severn Vale Flower Club Open Meeting	6.30 for 7pm	AH
29 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning Olveston Annual Parish Assembly	9.30-11.30 10.30-12.00 7.30pm	WR DGCL PH
Looking ahead to May			
10th	Cobbler Quiz	7.30	StM

KEY: **AC** Aust Church; **AH** – Armstrong Hall; **AMC** – Alveston Methodist Church; **AMH**- Alveston Methodist Hall; **AP** – Alexandra Pavilion; **AVH** – Aust Village Hall; ; **CH** – Cossham Hall; **Chy** – Chantry ;**CS** Castle Sch. **DGCL** – Daldry Gardens Comm'y Lounge; **EVH** – Elberton Vill. Hall; **LVH** Littleton Vill. Hall **MH** – Olveston Methodist Hall;**OMC** Oliv Meth Ch **OS** – Olveston Sch; **OS+** – Olveston Stores; **OV** – Olveston Vicarage; **PH** – Olveston Parish Hall; **StM** St Mary's Church, Oliv.; **StMA** Almondsbury Church **SMH** St Mary,s Ch. Hall Thornbury;**TCh** Tockington Chapel **TBCh** - Thornbury Baptist Ch.; **TMH** – Thorn. Methodist Hall; **URC** - Thornbury United Reform Ch.; **WR** – Wesley Rooms.

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.olvostonandaust.com. If you would like to update your organisation's details, please email: meetingpointsecretary@olvostonandaust.com

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