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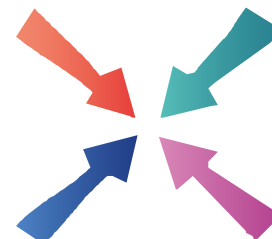
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# Meeting Point

**Volume 50, Number 11, August 2026**

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

## From the Editor

I was listening to the radio a short while ago and heard that what we call the 'silly season' in the UK is 'cucumber season' (uborkaszazon) in Hungary. Whatever it is called, it refers to the time when public life slows down and parliament, courts, schools and theatres close or pause their work, while many people take their summer holidays. In the past we tended to get trivial or unusual human-interest stories in the papers and on television. I am not sure this is exactly the case these days, and many of us would probably prefer to be reading some 'softer' news now, given what is going on in the world.

This month we have got some unusual (but not trivial) articles covering local history. We have also got accounts of a Brownie holiday, the nature walks organised by Making Space for Wildlife and the Valedictory Service in Olveston Methodist Chapel.

*Marelin*

This month's cover is by Les Harper.

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

### EDITOR:

**Marelin Orr-Ewing**  
Courtlands, Olveston  
BS35 4DU  
Tel: 01454 610081  
[meetingpointeditor@gmail.com](mailto:meetingpointeditor@gmail.com)

### ASSISTANT EDITOR:

**Diane Godwin**  
The Cottage, Church Hill  
Olveston BS35 4BZ  
Tel 01454 619029  
[meetingpointassistanteditor@gmail.com](mailto:meetingpointassistanteditor@gmail.com)

### ADVERTISING:

**Bernard Amos**  
Tel: 01454 620388  
[meetingpointadvertising@gmail.com](mailto:meetingpointadvertising@gmail.com)

### TREASURER:

**John Clayton**  
[meetingpointtreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:meetingpointtreasurer@gmail.com)

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## Olveston Chapel Valedictory Service

*Beverley Pepall*

Sunday 14th June saw our Valedictory service take place in Olveston Chapel. It was a Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving, a time of reflection on 200 years of ministry and milestones, to honour our history and church membership. A real celebration of the past and hope for the future.



Rev. Dr Simon Edwards led the service and two of our former Ministers, Rev. Sandy Williams and our Superintendent Minister Teddy Kalongo, gave a moving and heartfelt address to those present in the Chapel, recognising that difficult decisions have had to be made. Sandy said that to mention names would mean omitting others, but we should think of those who come to mind and be thankful for them and for their service.

On a personal note, she remembers walking into this building for the first time and being introduced to Trevor Watkins. "If you want an example of a loyal, self-effacing, hard-working, generous member of this congregation, someone who strove to walk in the way of Christ with a welcome for anyone of any age, from any background, we wouldn't need to look further than Trevor. His love of Christ and his love for Olveston Methodist Church was absolute – we won't mention Bristol Rovers"

Alveston Community Events

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Over the years there have been so many devoted members of this congregation, who, quietly and without fuss, have taken responsibility for all the tasks that crop up in church life from the tasks of communion stewards to cleaning, from cake making and flower arranging to hospital visiting and washing up, not to mention, in the days before card machines, counting the collection or serving on the various church committees. We remember activities such as luncheon club, summer fete, Sunday School, youth club.



L-R: Rev. Dr Simon Edwards, Superintendent Minister Rev. Prof Teddy Kalongo, Rev. Sandy Williams

Afterwards everyone gathered for delicious refreshments in the hall to celebrate our journey together, share memories, photos and enjoy fellowship with the other guests. Some had travelled a distance to unite with us in comfort and support. Another of our former Ministers, Rev. Singa Vunipola, attended. It was good to catch up.



Whilst this is the end of a chapter in Olveston, we will continue as Olveston and Tockington Methodist Church, serving both communities and holding regular worship at Tockington Chapel.

Both the Chapel and Hall will be sold in due course - and in the meantime we will continue to use them as needed.

L-R Maggie Spooner Church Steward, Singa Vunipola, Beverley Pepall Church Secretary



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## Cream Teas on Tockington Green



We will be serving cream teas and delicious cakes on Tockington Green on Bank Holiday Monday, August 31st, between 2.00 and 4.30pm. Bring your family and friends along to enjoy this special village event. There will be gluten free, dairy free and vegan treats too, plus decaff drink options and plant milks available – just ask.

Cash or card payments accepted and you can take away as well. We will be there come rain or shine! All proceeds will go towards the general running costs of Olveston and Tockington Methodist Church.

Any offers of help, either baking or help on the day, would be very welcome - it is never too late! Contact Maggie on 01454 610053

## Olveston and Tockington W.I.

Angela Green

I'm writing this at the end of June, when we've already had two heatwaves in a month. Did you know women are more likely than men to suffer in a heatwave? The WI magazine tells us that in 2022, when there were several heatwaves, there were almost twice as many extra deaths amongst women as men. Some of this is to do with pregnancy (which of course doesn't affect our members here in the villages!) and some to do with the fact that working women are more likely to be employed in low-paid jobs based in buildings with no air-conditioning. And of course, the older you are, the less you enjoy too much heat. So, I'm sure we all try to be aware of how our friends and neighbours are faring in heatwaves and offer help if we can.

At WI our walking group has certainly been affected by the heatwaves - and rain. However, our book group and our stitching group are both still very active. Our latest charity effort is knitting colourful elephants for children in hospital. And of course, we are still adding to the pile of poppies that will be needed for November. *(By the way, if you're trying to knit poppies according to the pattern given in Meeting Point and find knitting 3 together too hard, just do slip 1, knit 2 together and pass the slipped stitch over, all along the row - and thank you for your efforts.)*

As it's nice to get away from the usual in the summertime, there is no normal WI meeting this month. Instead, we are treating ourselves to lunch out at a local hostelry - lots of lovely food and happy chit-chat to look forward to.



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# Aust Parish Council

## New councillor appointed

Robert Taylor has recently been co-opted to fill the vacant councillor seat following Jeremy Warren's resignation, and we're delighted to welcome him to the Parish Council. Living in Littleton-upon-Severn, he brings a local perspective and a clear enthusiasm for supporting our community. We would also like to warmly thank all the other residents who expressed interest in the role — your willingness to step forward and contribute is appreciated.

## Response from Claire Young MP on the return of heavy goods vehicles to the Severn Bridge

Some months ago, the council wrote to our MP, Claire Young, asking for her support in ensuring that the National Highways plans for allowing HGVs back onto the Severn Bridge will not adversely affect local people. To prevent the bridge becoming overloaded, traffic will be held on the slip road off Aust roundabout when there are more than 9 HGVs on the bridge and allowed to continue only once the previous large vehicles have moved on. Residents and councillors are concerned that traffic queueing whilst waiting to get onto the bridge may cause tailbacks on local roads, impact air quality and be very noisy for nearby residents.

Ms Young has contacted National Highways to echo our concerns and remind them that they must stay in contact with the parish council who represent local people. We are hoping to receive the results of modelling work looking at the likely amounts of traffic build-up and potential environmental effects. This data should be available later this summer, prior to the planned start of the new scheme in the autumn.



Cont/.....



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## Next parish council meeting

Council meetings are generally held on the second Tuesday of each month, except for August and December. Our next regular meeting will be on **8<sup>th</sup> September** in Elberton village hall, starting at 7:30pm.

Agendas for council meetings are posted on the village noticeboards at least five days before the date of the meeting and are also available on the council website [austparishcouncil.gov.uk/meetings](http://austparishcouncil.gov.uk/meetings). Residents are very welcome to attend. Each meeting includes a slot for raising issues or asking questions of the council.

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## Olveston Brownies Weekend Away

All aboard for Motonui (or Merthyr Mawr beach, near Porthcawl) for Olveston Brownies Pack Holiday. With a weekend filled with Disney's Moana-themed fun, this year's weekend was a seaside trip to the Girlguiding Lodge at Gorwelion. Staying in the beautiful Guide-owned lodge, the girls were able to spend the weekend enjoying a variety of fun, friendship, cooking and outdoor activities.

Arriving on Friday evening, the Brownies enjoyed settling into their dormitories for the evening (bunk beds being a particularly exciting prospect). The Guide lodge includes space for camping, outdoor cooking and a mysterious adventure wood. The girls were set a challenge to hunt through the woods to find a number of Moana-themed items. Good teamwork ensured they had great fun exploring the site, discovering the hidden tee-pees, ship and the adventure playground equipment.

The next morning everyone was up bright and early for a full day of adventure. Starting off the morning with some outdoor games with our huge parachute, the girls spent much of the morning working on a few different activities. Some Brownies had a go at baking and decorating cupcakes, while others made their own Moana style lei necklaces and bracelets, before swapping over.

Cont/.....

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After lunch, the weather improved slightly and the whole pack were eager for an excursion to the beach. Although the wind and rain did not let up, the Brownies ventured out armed with raincoats and wellies. The girls were incredibly excited to explore the extensive rock pools, discovering crabs, mussels, limpets, and a whole range of seaside curiosities.

As evening set in, back in the lodge the girls spent time before dinner

decorating pebbles to commemorate their trip. Using Moana as their theme, they created a beautiful pebble collage which would remain at Gorwelion to inspire future trips.

On our final day with the weather being much more pleasant, the girls made a packed lunch to take down to the beach for the day. They spent time making sandcastles - or in some cases sand fortresses! Then they explored the shoreline some more, dipping their toes in the waves or making temporary art creations from natural materials on the beach.

By mid-afternoon, full of great memories, it was time to go home. The pack left with some Brownies declaring it the best pack holiday ever and we have promised to return.

## Reaching Out

The Meeting Point team is aware that some residents from the Meeting Point area have moved into local care or residential homes, such as Beech House or Grace Lodge, Thornbury, Windmill House, Old Down and Glebe House, Almondsbury. These folk may no longer be receiving a copy of Meeting Point and might be interested to have one to read every month.

If they, or a friend or family member, would like to email or call the editor (address on p1) asking for a named copy to be delivered to a local residential home each month, we can arrange for that. We look forward to hearing from you.





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## Greenforce

Trees of every size and variety, deciduous or evergreen, enter our lives the world over. They have independently evolved a trunk and branches to tower above other plants to compete for sunlight. They grow the world over except in extreme environments such as desert or wind-stricken places where they are unable

to survive. They enrich and sustain our lives in countless ways, offering us shade, shelter, and food, building materials and firewood. Forests provide a habitat for many species of animals and plants. Tropical rainforests are among the most biodiverse habitats in the world.

Trees are not just biological entities which contribute hugely to our ecological balance but are embodied in the historical and cultural fabric of societies throughout the world. The tree of life motif serves as a reminder of the enduring relationship between nature and humanity. Trees link us to our past especially as some may live for more than 1000 years. An example of one locally is the sweet chestnut in the churchyard of Tortworth parish church near Falfield.

Within our cities they remind us of the importance of preserving green spaces and are living proof of the contribution they make to our environment, not only by absorbing carbon dioxide but by providing green spaces for humans and animals. Trees educate us in the significance of biodiversity and the need for conservation. It is so important that we preserve and protect these vital organisms for the future.

So, how much carbon dioxide does an oak tree convert? During photosynthesis, trees absorb CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere and then they convert the CO<sub>2</sub> into oxygen and carbon. They store the carbon in their wood mass and use it to grow. As an example, an average 50-year-old oak tree will absorb about 17kg per year.

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# Tockington's Hidden History *Martin Gibson*

## The Original Tockington Manor

There's nothing like a good old-fashioned mystery and here we have a cracker. In medieval times Tockington was quite an important place. There was a Lord of the Manor, a market going back even before the Norman Conquest, a regular fair and the manor (the estate itself) extended over 20,000 acres - one of the largest in the country - and it was a major route between Wales and London. So it follows, or it should do, that the Lord of the Manor lived here and in a manor house. But if that were the case, surely there must be some physical evidence? Oh, if only we were so lucky.

Most research into our locality centres around the Poyntz family, who were the original Lords of the Manor, carried out by Sir Robert Atkyns 1711 and Sir John Maclean 1888 and the period which interests us most is 1100-1600 AD. The hard documentary evidence supporting the existence of a manor house comes from the findings of two Inquisitions. Inquisitions were legal hearings with a jury held at the time of death of important people. The first, on the death of Sir Nicholas Poyntz in 1273, found that he had left "*one capital messuage (an important house) with a garden, and curtilage, and dovecote*" plus land. Sir Hugh Poyntz was Sir Nicholas' successor and he died in 1308. His Inquisition again references a "*capital messuage*" plus, interestingly, "*a certain park containing 10 acres*" almost certainly Tockington Park, just off the A38.

Sir Hugh's son, Nicholas (yes, it is confusing!), held other titles and moved to Cory Malet in Somerset between 1337 and 1355. That raises the question - what happened to the manor house? It must have been a substantial building, of stone with a timber roof. Was it just abandoned? And if so, what happened to the stones and timbers? Usually, they would have been repurposed in the construction of new buildings, but there isn't any obvious evidence of this happening.

The next question is, where was the manor house sited? We can rule out today's Tockington Manor straight away. It was originally known as Tockington House and sometime between 1216 and 1272, Sir Nichols Poyntz granted a 'yard long' (about 30 acres) of land to Clement Parminter who built a house on it and whose family lived there until 1712. This was confirmed by Atkyns in 1711 so is contemporaneous. Might it have been on Tockington Park? This area of land was a part of Tockington manor going back to the first Lord of the Manor but by 1581 it was owned by Richard Houghton who sold it to Sir Nicholas Poyntz (yes, another one). Certainly there was a substantial building here, but it was called The Lodge. Furthermore, it would have been very



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unusual for a manor house to have been located so far from the centre of the village.

Today's Tockington Court on Upper Tockington Road is something of an enigma. It was built in Victorian times on what was previously known as Manor Farm. A 1777 map of Tockington, not altogether reliable, shows what seems to be an important house in the general area of Tockington Court but is unnamed. But by 1840 it was a farm. Why was it called Manor Farm?

Where else to look? Logistically, the land on the North side of The Green, Musthay, makes a lot of sense. It was the centre of the village, level land and with a good water supply via Little Down. The markets and fairs were held on The Green, with cattle coming from as far away as Monmouth. The now lost Tockington free chapel, was sited there (again, it was quite usual for the Lord of the Manor to effectively have his own church) and Tockington Stone Cross, on The Green itself, must have had some significant connection. Additionally, according to all the available maps, it was more or less unbuilt on, even in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Had the site been cleared by then? But the big stumbling block to this theory is, what happened to the stones and timbers? They must have been plentiful, more so than might have been re-employed in places like Pool Farm, The Swan Inn, the White Horse or Sheepcombe House which were constructed in the mid 17<sup>th</sup> century.

The mystery remains - unsolved.

*A full analysis of Atkyns and Maclean's research is held by Olveston Parish Historical Society.*

## Pilning Flower Show

This traditional village show takes place on August 29<sup>th</sup> - the Saturday of the August Bank Holiday weekend - at St Peter's School, Bank Road, Pilning. The show opens to the public at 2.15pm and admission is just £1 for adults, 50p for OAPs and children go free.

Over 74 classes are free and open to anyone to enter on the Friday evening or Saturday morning before 10:45. Enjoy homemade refreshments, the displays, raffle and charity auction. All funds raised go to local charity Moments. For all the details please visit the show's website:

[www.pilningflowershow.co.uk](http://www.pilningflowershow.co.uk).



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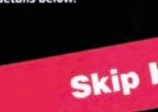
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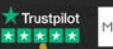
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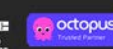


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# Tockington Harvest Fayre



**Saturday September 19th at 2pm on Tockington Green.**

There will be delicious cream teas and home-made cakes, ice cream, a children's fancy dress parade, competitions, and musical entertainment. We will have lots of stalls including toys, garden produce, plants, books and 'As New' items plus games and challenges for all ages.

We would be very grateful for any donations of 'As New' items/unwanted presents, good quality books, toiletries, toys, plants, vegetables, and bottles for the Tombola. *Please, no bric-a-brac.* You can leave items in Olveston Methodist Church porch or bring more valuable items to the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday Coffee Morning in Tockington Chapel. Alternatively contact Maggie on 01454 610053 or Cath at [tocs.friends@gmail.com](mailto:tocs.friends@gmail.com). We can always collect donations if needed.

## Children's Competitions - Get creative over the summer holidays!

Our theme this year ties in with David Attenborough's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

- Fancy dress- 'Life on Earth' - come dressed as any living creature, plant or animal. For example, come as a frog, a butterfly or a gorilla. This will be judged at the start of the Fayre.
- Handprint Animal – Draw around your hand, or make a print, and make it into any wild animal on A4 paper.
- Pokemon Competition – Design and name a new Pokemon character, on A4 paper – templates will be available at Olveston Stores

*Competition entries should be brought to Tockington Chapel on the morning of the 19th with the child's name, age and contact details clearly displayed.*

We rely on this event as a major source of funds for the general running costs of Olveston and Tockington Methodist Church and buildings, which continue to be used extensively by local organisations.

You can really help us by offering a small amount of your time to make this year's Fayre a success, please get in touch, using the contacts above.



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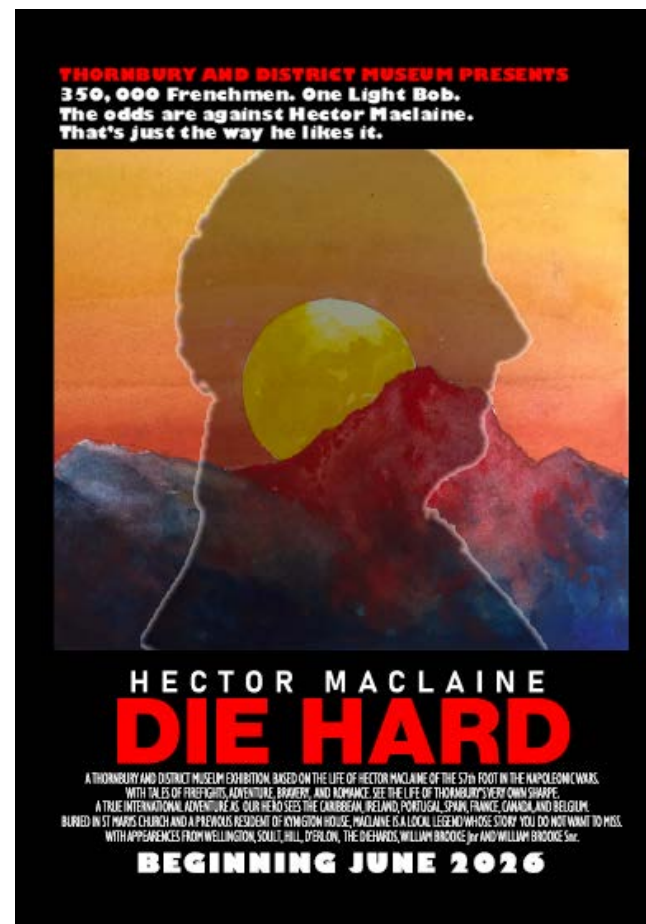
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## Hector Maclaine-Die Hard in Spain!

New Exhibition: Thornbury & District Museum, Chapel St, Thornbury.



UWE student and energetic museum volunteer Ben Mallett has researched and created a brand-new exhibition about the previously unexplored story of Thornbury resident Hector Maclaine - and it's a story of fighting, adventure, bravery and romance!

This is not the Hector Maclaine commemorated on the drinking fountain at the top of Castle Street but his grandfather.

Hector Maclaine senior was a Scottish soldier who married Thornbury heiress Martha Osborne in 1816 and lived for many

years at Kyneton House, Kington. He served in the Caribbean, Ireland, Portugal, Spain, France, Canada and Belgium.

Throughout the Peninsular War in Spain and Portugal, he fought primarily as a captain and then as a major in the 57<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot, a light infantry company nicknamed the 'Die Hards'.

Cont/.....

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Led by Lieutenant-General Sir Arthur Wellesley (later the Duke of Wellington), Maclaine and his men grappled with the numerically superior forces of Napoleon Bonaparte. Hector Maclaine could be seen as Thornbury's 'Captain Sharpe', the fictional character whose military career has many parallels.

Ben Mallett's exhibition poster plays on the regimental nickname by referencing the poster for Die Hard, the film in which Bruce Willis stars as John McClane! The silhouette on this poster is Hector Maclaine, the only image of him known to exist.

Ben has trawled through a wide array of sources to piece together Hector Maclaine's extraordinary life, resulting in a fascinating exhibition at our local Museum. Come and find out all about him!

Open: Tue, Wed, Fri 1-4pm and Sat 10am-4pm. Exhibition on all summer. Free entry. [www.thornburymuseum.org.uk](http://www.thornburymuseum.org.uk)



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| Amount | Number | Name                     |
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| £150   | 269    | Mr J Mason, Tockington   |
| £75    | 590    | Mrs S Roos, Olveston     |
| £50    | 493    | Mr P Haworth, Olveston   |
| £25    | 681    | Mrs P Hinton, Tockington |
| £25    | 691    | Mrs P Savage, Olveston   |
| £25    | 734    | Mr R Riggs, Almondsbury  |
| £25    | 573    | Mr P Haworth, Olveston   |
| £25    | 365    | Mr G Clark, Olveston     |
| £25    | 649    | Mrs A Bradley, Olveston  |
| £25    | 634    | Mr M Riddle, Thornbury   |

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# Thornbury U3A Cycling Group

Tony Turnbull

Probably one of the oldest in Thornbury U3A, the cycling group was founded by Phil and Ann Holland and was very active even before 2009 when I joined. It meets every Thursday, and seeks to find new, cycle friendly routes throughout our beautiful area.



Normally, the pattern of activities is that one week the plan is to cycle about 30-40 miles, stop for morning coffee and for a pub lunch and get back to Thornbury by mid-afternoon; much depends on the weather and the time of year! On the alternate Thursdays there is a 'morning coffee ride' where we either ride to or meet at a local café within a 10 mile or so radius and get back home by lunch time.



A WhatsApp group is used to co-ordinate the rides and chat amongst ourselves. The meeting place and details of all rides are published a few days ahead by the ride leader, with each ride limited to 12 cyclists. Most rides start from Thornbury but sometimes we transport our bikes to starting points further afield, such as Tetbury or Bitton Station (for the Bristol-Bath Railway Path). For rides across the river, a secondary meeting place is at the start of the cycle track across the Old Severn Bridge; this is convenient for those cycling from Almondsbury, Olveston and neighbouring villages south of Thornbury.

Our rides are sociable as well as good for your fitness, and are at a pace to suit everyone, with regular stops to regroup and ensure no one gets left behind. Whether you're new to cycling or it's years since your rusty old steed came out of the back of the garage, why not give us a try?








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# Olveston Parish Council

Pat Savage

## Your Council needs You!

Following the departure of Amanda Symons and Tony Turnbull from the Council, we are now two councillors short. Being a Parish Councillor is an opportunity to help shape and determine the future and the continued well-being of the communities of Olveston, Old Down and Tockington who form Olveston Parish Council.

Meetings are held monthly on the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Queen Alexandra Memorial Pavilion. The Council does not meet in August. Please come to one of the monthly meetings when you will have an opportunity to observe the proceedings. The Chairman aims to keep meetings to an hour and a half maximum. If you are at all interested, please contact the Clerk: [clerk@olvestonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@olvestonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## Annual Parish Assembly

This was hailed as a resounding success by both the Parishioners and the Council. The Councillors saw it as an opportunity for everyone to meet and exchange views and opinions relating to the Council and the wider parish. After all, whilst the Council is here to represent the Communities, it is still worthwhile being aware of how the Council is viewed. One suggestion was to maybe have a Christmas event and involve the younger members of the community. Watch this space!

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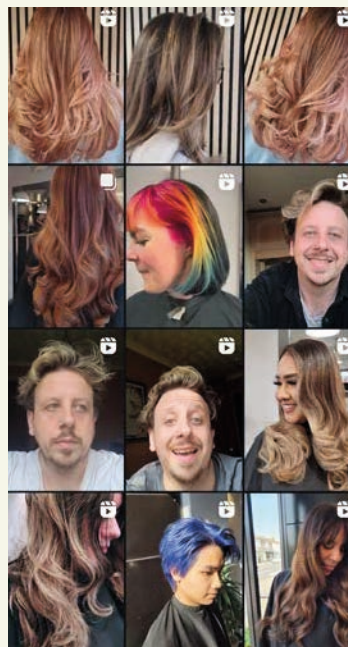
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# Two Murders Touch Tockington Green

*Nick Fear*

Thoughts of public houses and Tockington Green are always linked to the delightful Swan Inn, but this was not always the case. Eric Garrett and Les Harper detailed at least two more drinking establishments around the Green in their wonderful book, 'Yesteryear' (OPHS). The White Horse was opposite the Swan and The Crown in between them.

In those days, people who wished to sell alcohol needed to buy a license from a local authority. Any person could be licensed and refreshing liquids dispensed from the front or back room of their home. Sales were often seasonal dependent on factors such as the cider apple crop. Beer making was a skill needing proper ingredients and equipment. It was also time consuming, so some ale houses were often dry for lack of brewed stock. Local knowledge passed on information as to who had a few casks of beer or cider on tap. There were no alcoholic measurements of strength, just opinion as to a 'good drop' or otherwise. The vast majority of drinking causes no problems, but there are always sad exceptions.

On April 21<sup>st</sup>, 1841, a local man, William Weyman, a discharged army veteran, was drinking in the Tockington beer and cider house owned by a Mr Thomas. Also present was William Fisher, a farmer of a few acres in Awkley. It seemed that Weyman had known Fisher's wife when they were children growing up in Tockington. He had always held feelings for her, but after going into the army for decades never had any further contact. The cider on offer was strong and obviously affected Weyman. There seemed no immediate reason, but he suddenly produced a pistol from inside his jacket a shot Fisher at point-blank range. The outcome can be imagined, the descriptions in local newspapers are too distressing to reprint. Weyman seemed transfixed and stayed in the premises whilst the local constable attended and arrested him. An inquest into the incident was held in the Swan Inn and a murder verdict was passed. The local magistrates had remanded Weyman to Gloucester Jail where, after due process, he was hung.

On April 7<sup>th</sup>, 1887, Richard Rugman - an infirm 80-year-old retired farmer from Morton - was savagely murdered in his home. His housekeeper and carer Eliza Smith had also been attacked and left unconscious. An inquest was held at the Swan Inn, Thornbury. Over eight hours the full case was examined in detail with several witnesses testifying. The jury retired and took time to consider the case, recording a verdict of 'murder by person or persons unknown'.

Cont/.....

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On May 2<sup>nd</sup> William Cook was drinking in the White Horse in Tockington. He overheard a conversation between two locals, Francis Ponting and William Harris. Ponting had said that, “*They are making a fuss about old Rugman, I did the job*”. He then quickly left the premises. Cook went to the local constable and explained when he had heard. There was no sign of Ponting, but the constable borrowed a horse and trap and toured the area. He passed on his mission to local constables including Joseph Copner who was stationed in Redwick. In the early evening he saw Ponting walking towards Severn Beach and after a brief conversation detained him. The local magistrates remanded Ponting in custody, where he was interviewed at length. Ponting had explained that it was the beer talking and that he had nothing to do with the offence. He gave an alibi which proved to be correct. There was no possibility that he had been near Morton on the night of the crime and he was subsequently released. Sadly, there is no evidence that the crime was ever solved.

It seems that only twice Tockington Green has had links with a murder. The excessive alcoholic intake of William Weyman and Francis Ponting was a big factor in the courses they took. Thankfully the vast majority of alcoholic consumption (in The Swan, for example, pictured below) passes enjoyably, peacefully, and without resulting in such deadly consequences.



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# Armstrong Hall Memories

Jackie Jackson

Since the opening of The Armstrong in April, one of the many pleasures has been the reminiscences of local people who knew the venue in its past glory days when it was home to so many community activities. One intriguing memory was triggered by the showing of *Matilda: The Musical* when a visitor told us that Roald Dahl had visited Thornbury in the 1970s. After some digging, we found that he was invited to Thornbury Arts Festival by Diana Hendry, the Artistic Director at the time. He could be an irascible character, but he was really kind to the children who took part in a play based on his book, *Fantastic Mr Fox*. That year was quite a bumper year for the festival with a visit from Jon Pertwee who played Dr Who in the early days of the Time Lord series and Brian Patten the poet. A postscript to this interesting memory is the link between Diana Hendry, one of the legendary architects of Thornbury Arts Festival, and one of our recent guests to The Armstrong, international bestselling author Amanda Prowse. When Diana, who is a poet, moved away, she sold her house in Castle Street to Amanda's family, so perhaps she left some of her literary talent there to be absorbed by young Amanda.



In June Amanda Prowse delivered a brilliant one woman show *A Love Letter to Thornbury* where she explored her love for the town and traced the links to Thornbury in her books. In a pre-show interview, Amanda, who has published more than 30 books which have been translated into dozens of languages explained that despite not wanting to leave London where she was born, she has come to value Thornbury as home and a place where you can be yourself with no pressures. She said, "As soon as I hit The Ship at the top of Thornbury Hill – that's the moment I felt at home" - probably because of working there as a sixth former.

Cont/.....

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Amanda had many memories of the old Armstrong Hall in her youth and cannot believe The Armstrong is the same place – “stunningly beautiful, comfortable and opulent” but feels that the essence of what made it special in the past has been retained. Thornbury, and no doubt some characters from Thornbury have made their way into Amanda’s books and in fact the novel *To Love and Be Loved* opens in Cornwall but the main character moves to Thornbury to start a new life and gets a job at Thornbury Castle.

Despite being held on the hottest day of the summer when all kind of strategies had to be used to cope with the heat (imported fans, paper fans, iced lollies!), Amanda’s show went down a storm. Her reminiscences of the transition from the East End of London to rural Gloucestershire were hilarious and touching, especially her problems with the dialect. As she said, she was born in London but made in Thornbury. A bonus of the evening was a barnstorming rendition of *Don’t Rain on My Parade* by Stevie Tate-Bauer-Smith, Amanda’s sister-in-law, who has starred in *Wicked* in the West End. Amanda generously gave all the proceeds of her show towards the funds being raised to renovate the Lansdown Hall and gave every audience member a goodie bag to take home.

And the show goes on - with a wide variety of performances and events in the next few months. Local writers are welcome to an Open Mike Evening on September 10<sup>th</sup> and on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> we welcome the Magnificent AK47, a charismatic choir of men who sing like angels and make you laugh...great combo. NTL this month brings The Misanthrope and Comedy Club, now an established favourite, returns on 25<sup>th</sup> September and October 30<sup>th</sup>. The Pantaloons, an hilarious group of comic actors bring *The (almost) Complete History of Britain* on October 3<sup>rd</sup> and Mike Purnell will play the piano for another Sunday Session in the Foyer Bar on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October. Dancers



should get into Strictly mode for the Autumn Tea Dance on 14<sup>th</sup> October and as ever, half term will be full of activities including a Family Halloween Party on October 31<sup>st</sup>.

To book events and find out what is happening at The Armstrong, browse our website for full information. Also, we would love to hear about any other memories about the Armstrong Hall so get in touch!

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## Green Bean Chutney

*This recipe first appeared in August 2024. Once again, it looks like this year will be good for beans – despite the heatwaves - so it is worth repeating.*



In the past, for readers who are vegetable gardeners, we have included a recipe for using up the inevitable glut of courgettes that rapidly turn into marrows if you're not careful. This year it looks like green beans will be doing extremely well, at least for some of us! So here is a recipe from Tessa Floyd that uses and preserves some of your crop.

### Ingredients



800ml malt vinegar  
1kg cooked runner or French beans, cut into 1cm pieces  
5 medium white onions, finely diced  
800g demerara or brown sugar  
1½ tbsp cornflour  
1½ tbsp turmeric  
1 tbsp dried mustard powder  
1 tbsp salt

### Method

- 1 Put the vinegar, the cooked beans, the onions and the sugar into a large saucepan and cook for 15 minutes over a medium heat.
- 2 In a separate bowl, mix the cornflour, turmeric, salt and mustard to a paste with a tablespoon of water.
- 3 Add the paste to the beans and continue to cook for a further 10 minutes until the chutney has thickened to a desirable consistency.
- 4 Bottle the chutney in clean sterilised jars and keep for at least a week before using to give the flavours time to mature and meld.

This makes approximately 6 x 450g jars.

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## Summer Holidays Wordsearch

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| I | C | I | N | C | I | P | E | A | M |
| N | G | A | M | E | S | N | U | O | A |
| I | B | V | C | M | I | W | V | W | E |
| K | D | E | L | H | C | A | E | B | R |
| I | E | S | S | E | F | S | G | Y | C |
| B | K | N | R | S | T | P | C | R | E |
| F | U | N | H | J | Q | S | X | Y | C |
| S | W | I | M | M | I | N | G | P | I |

- There are 9 words associated with summer holidays hidden in this wordsearch. They are things you might see, do, visit, wear or enjoy.
- 8 of them are nice things.....and one definitely isn't!
- Words go left to right, right to left, up and down and diagonally.

Good luck!

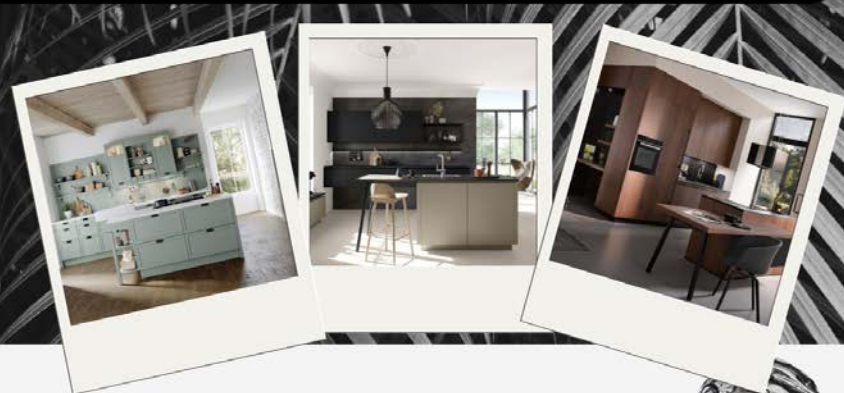


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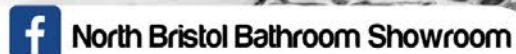


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## Yours Faithfully

Kate Taylor  
Thornbury Quakers

August. Traditionally the time for summer holidays and, as a friend recently reminded me, the time to start to bring in the harvest. I very often find myself thinking that we reap what we sow, in all sorts of ways. Particularly I have been thinking that when we turn a blind eye to wrongdoing, we encourage further wrongdoing. Whereas when we take a stand, stand up to the bully, refuse to cooperate with what they are doing, then there is some hope that they will see sense and stop whatever it is they have been doing. I know it isn't always easy, but I do think it is important.

As the Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish said, "Without hope we are lost." We must not give up hope, and we must continue to do whatever we can to make sure we all reap something better than what we have at the moment. The good thing is that we are not alone in this. Whatever problem you can think of there are already people busily trying to find a way to remedy it. That gives me hope. I hope it gives you hope too.



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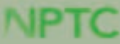

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## Church News

### ST MARY the VIRGIN, OLVESTON

|          |             |                                                            |                                    |
|----------|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Aug 2nd  | 10am<br>6pm | Holy Communion<br>Evensong - <b>Choir</b>                  | Rev David Lloyd<br>Rev David Lloyd |
| Aug 9th  | 10am<br>6pm | Morning Prayer - <b>Choir</b><br>Holy Communion            | Rev David Lloyd<br>Rev David Lloyd |
| Aug 16th | 10am<br>6pm | Morning Prayer - <b>Choir</b><br>Holy Communion BCP        | Janet McBride<br>Rev Ann Lloyd     |
| Aug 23rd | 10am<br>6pm | Holy Communion - <b>Choir</b><br>Reflective Evening Prayer | Rev Ann Lloyd<br>Janet McBride     |
| Aug 30th | 10am<br>6pm | Holy Communion - <b>Choir</b><br>Compline                  | Rev Ann Lloyd<br>Rev Ann Lloyd     |

First Sunday of the month during term time, **Messy Church** 9am.  
 Every Saturday (term time) **'REFRESH'**, 4.30-5.30 - Fun, relaxed church.  
 Every Wednesday, Holy Communion, 10am.  
 NB Clergy may change.  
**Contact:** Rev David Moss, 01454 415190, mossds@gmail.com

### CHAPELRY OF ST JOHN, AUST

|          |      |                |                |
|----------|------|----------------|----------------|
| Aug 9th  | 10am | Holy Communion | Rev David Moss |
| Aug 23rd | 10am | Morning Prayer | Trevor Cook    |

**Contact:** Trevor Cook, 01454 618442  
**Church Wardens:** Jenn Dickens 632312 and Jon Burnett 633835

### ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON

|          |     |                |               |
|----------|-----|----------------|---------------|
| Aug 9th  | 9am | Morning Prayer | Rev Ann Lloyd |
| Aug 23rd | 9am | Holy Communion | Rev Ann Lloyd |

**Contacts: Church Wardens:** Catharine Gunnery 413225 and Cheryl Meredith 411065

### ST MARY DE MALMESBURY, LITTLETON-ON-SEVERN

|          |     |                              |                |
|----------|-----|------------------------------|----------------|
| Aug 9th  | 3pm | Evensong                     | Rev David Moss |
| Aug 23rd | 3pm | Evensong with Holy Communion | Rev David Moss |

**Contacts:** Tracey Black 417660 and Tim Pyper 416422 /07802 419451





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## OLVESTON AND TOCKINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

|          |      |        |                                           |
|----------|------|--------|-------------------------------------------|
| Aug 2nd  | 10am | Olv Ch | Morning Worship by Local arrangement      |
| Aug 9th  | 10am | Olv Ch | Morning Worship led by Rev Dr John Emmett |
| Aug 16th | 10am | Olv Ch | Morning Worship led by F. Maisokwadzo     |
| Aug 23rd | 10am | Olv Ch | Morning Worship by Local arrangement      |
| Aug 30th | 10am | Olv Ch | Morning Worship led by E. Jacob           |

**Contact:** Rev Dr Simon Edwards 418176 [Simon.edwards@methodist.org.uk](mailto:Simon.edwards@methodist.org.uk)

**THE VINE House of Prayer, Pilning Street, Awkley BS35 4HL**  
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**Contact:** 01454 612084, [thevine\\_awkley@hotmail.com](mailto:thevine_awkley@hotmail.com)

**THE OASIS CHURCH, OLD DOWN**  
Services at 6.30pm every Sunday. All are welcome.  
**Contact:** Neil Mobbs, [cnmobbs@hotmail.com](mailto:cnmobbs@hotmail.com)

**AUST EVANGELICAL CHURCH** Service 11am every Sunday

**LITTLETON EVANGELICAL CHURCH** Service 5.30pm every Sunday  
**Contact:** [esther@thebamfields.co.uk](mailto:esther@thebamfields.co.uk)

**RC CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING, Thornbury**  
Mass on Sundays at 9.00 and 10.30am  
**Contact:** 01454 412223, <https://ctkandholycross.org.uk>

**SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS), Thornbury**  
**Contact:** Chris Willmore, [chriswillmore@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:chriswillmore@blueyonder.co.uk)

**THORNBURY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**  
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# Diary Dates for August:

Information believed to be correct at going to press.

|          |                                                                                                                              |                                        |                           |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Sat    | Park Run every Sat<br>Thornbury Art Club Exhibition<br>Book Fair<br>Coffee morning & Fair-Trade Stall                        | 9am<br>10-6pm<br>10am<br>10am          | MP<br>TMCH<br>TMCH<br>URC |
| 2 Sun    | Litter picking<br>Thornbury Art Club Exhibition                                                                              | 10am<br>1-4pm                          | OPH<br>TMCH               |
| 4 Tues   | Citizens Advice, every Tues<br>WRBL meeting                                                                                  | 10-12pm<br>7.30pm                      | TTH<br>DGCL               |
| 5 Wed    | Table Tennis every Weds                                                                                                      | 7pm                                    | OPH                       |
| 6 Thurs  | Thornbury Farmers Market<br>Coffee Shop, every Thurs<br>Good afternoon choir, every Thurs                                    | 9am<br>9.30-12pm<br>1-3pm              | StM<br>URC                |
| 7 Fri    | Haven Memory Café, every 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup><br>Fri<br>Tockington Community Café<br>Friday Monthly Music Night | 10.15-<br>11.45am<br>10-12pm<br>7.30pm | URC<br>TMC<br>CTK         |
| 8 Sat    | Coffee morning<br>Summer of Socks: Live outdoor<br>Acrobatic Show                                                            | 10-12pm<br>11am &<br>2.30pm            | OMC<br>Thorn              |
| 10 Mon   | Severnvale Flower Club.                                                                                                      | 2pm                                    | SMCH                      |
| 11 Tues  | Olveston & Tockington WI                                                                                                     | 7.30pm                                 | OPH                       |
| 20 Thurs | Thornbury Farmers Market                                                                                                     | 9am                                    |                           |
| 24 Mon   | Severnvale Flower club practice<br>class                                                                                     | 2pm                                    | SMCH                      |
| 29 Sat   | Pilning Flower Show<br>Cream Teas on Tockington Green                                                                        | 2.15pm<br>2 - 4pm                      | StP Sch                   |
| 31 Mon   | Summer Bank Holiday                                                                                                          |                                        |                           |

## Looking forward to September:

5<sup>th</sup> Sat - Alveston Family Village Fair - 12-4pm - Jubilee Field

5<sup>th</sup> Sat - Feria Orchestra Concert - 7.30pm - StM

19<sup>th</sup> Sat - Tockington Harvest Fayre - 2pm - Tockington Green

KEY: **AMC** - Alveston Methodist Church, **AMH** - Alveston Methodist Hall, **AOSH** - Almondsbury Old School Hall, **AVH** - Aust Village Hall **CS** - Castle School, **CH** - Cossham Hall **CTK** - Christ the King, **DGCL** - Daldry Gardens Community Lounge, **ECVH** - Easter Compton Village Hall, **EVH** - Elberton Village Hall, **FVH** - Falfield village Hall, **JHA** - Jubilee Hall, Alveston **LVH** - Littleton Village Hall **MSch** - Marwood School **MPF** - Mundy playing fields **OC** - Oasis Church, Old Down, **ODE** - Old Down Estate **OMC** - Olveston Methodist Church, **OMH** - Olveston Methodist Hall, **OPH** - Olveston Parish Hall, **OTF** - Olympus Theatre Filton **OPS** - Olveston Primary School **PHT** - Porch House, Thornbury **QAMP** - Queen Alexandra Memorial Pavilion, Old Down **RHVH** - Rockhampton village hall. **StH** - St Helen's Church, Alveston. **StHSc** - St Helen's School **StM** - St Mary's Church, **StMB** - St Mary's Berkely **StMT** - Thornbury St Mary's Ch, **StP Sch** - St Peters School, Pilning **SMCH** - St Mary's Church Hall **SBVH** - Severn Beach Village Hall, Thornbury, **TGC** - Thornbury Golf Club, **TCC** - Turnberries, **TMC** - Tockington Methodist Church, **TMCH** - Thornbury Methodist Church Hall, **TTH** - Thornbury Town Hall, **URC** - United Reform Church **WADCA** - Winterbourne & District Community Association



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