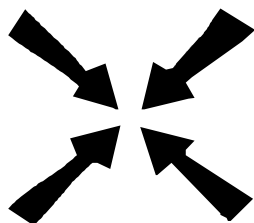


Meeting Point



January 2015



Meeting Point

Volume 39, Number 4, January 2015

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

A New Year, a new Editor. Phyllida Pyper will be a very hard act to follow, but I have already learned that the rest of the team behind Meeting Point is very strong and extremely supportive, so here goes...

The Questionnaire circulated in Olveston Parish by the Vision Group (see their update inside) shows that 93% of respondents want Meeting Point to be how they find out about what is going on in the Parish. That provides me with a ready-made and rather demanding ambition, not just for Olveston, but throughout the Meeting Point area. There is so much going on that getting it all into the space available, as well as providing some entertainment and food for thought, is not easy. Do let me know how you think I'm doing.

A Happy New Year from all at Meeting Point.

The cover: Southdown ewes at Mumbleys Farmhouse. The photograph by Jules Moore won second prize in the Elberton Photography Competition. Jules also bred the ewes.

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



Profile - Bernard Amos

Interview by Pat Thirkettle

Bernard spent his childhood in Lancaster. He left Lancaster Royal Grammar School at sixteen to work for a local Farm Foods manufacturer. However, being ambitious, he wanted promotion which was only possible by marrying one of the director's daughters – not an attractive proposition! Instead, he wrote to all the local big businesses asking for a job. Shell-Mex & BP offered him one which he gladly accepted and after six weeks the HR manager from regional office said they were impressed with him and would he like a permanent position. Bernard hadn't realised he was temporary! However, he immediately accepted and the rest, as you will read, is history. After six months the HR director suggested he acquire some qualifications, so he started day release for a National Diploma in business studies, which continued over several years enabling him to acquire amongst others a degree in marketing, a finance qualification and transport manager's licence.

He started in the Distribution Division which involved routing fuel tankers all over the North West, and after four years was offered promotion to move to Manchester, where he worked with Regional Engineers responsible for three refineries, fifteen distribution depots and thirty smaller depots and later looking after filling stations with different brands of fuel. Alongside his work, always a keen badminton player, he reached County standard, as well as following his great love of motor sport which was fostered by his parents taking him to the Isle of Man TT races where he saw the first 100mph lap in 1957. Happily he got the chance to be involved in Shell motor sport – it was a dream to be working with many famous riders and drivers.

In 1976 Shell-Mex and BP fell foul of the Monopolies Commission and were broken up; a huge upheaval and for Bernard a major decision about where to continue working - he chose Shell. Each weekend he was working on the motor sports side, but sadly was too senior to be offered the Shell sports manager job. Instead he accepted the job of an Internal Audit Senior in Shell-Mex House, London. Here he met his wife Jo when he was auditing her division.

Still very involved in Shell motor sport, he helped organise prize giving for Grand Prix and thus met heroes like Barry Sheene, Joey Dunlop, Ron Haslam, Alain Prost, Keke Rosberg etc. In 1985 Shell sponsored the European Grand Prix at Brands Hatch when Nigel Mansell won his first GP. The prize was an enormous Waterford Crystal cup, very heavy and very

expensive that was presented by the Shell CEO, a man with only one arm – everyone held their breath! Still playing badminton, he chaired the Shell Badminton Club and helped organise the annual tournament against Shell Holland held in England and Holland alternate years. Jo could never understand how Bernard continued in Motor Sport as so many of his friends were killed racing; Bernard contends they would do something equally dangerous if you stopped them and died doing something they loved.

They married in 1980 and first lived in his house in Leighton Buzzard and later Hemel Hempstead, where, (in his spare time) he qualified as a ski instructor, another sport close to his heart. Keen to start a family, this proved difficult at first so they decided to foster and the second placement was Marie and Daniel then aged three and two. The initial six weeks kept being extended until the children came up for adoption, and Jo and Bernard were delighted to adopt them. Not long later, as so often happens, their first natural child Abigail was born, swiftly followed by Katie and then Robert and suddenly there was a very full family.

By 1980 Bernard had taken on a role in People Development, charged with researching how computing would affect senior people's job design. This led him on a fascinating opportunity to work with leading thinkers on creativity, stress, computer ergonomics, leadership, teams, problem solving, decision making and project management, etc. He was also working voluntarily with World Vision helping Christian business people live out their faith in their work and also helping Christian organisations become more effective. In the next eight years he enjoyed a growing reputation, being offered (for him) significant fees to speak at seminars and invitations to help other companies. He realised that he would like to work in a wider field than oil, and took the momentous decision to leave Shell, (at the fourth attempt, I don't think they wanted him to leave), after twenty five years. He then started a consultancy with some colleagues who had based themselves in Thornbury. More and more of his work had focused on negotiation and international culture and after leaving Shell he worked with companies in just about every field of commerce and industry. Eighteen months later, in 1991, the family moved to Olveston to be nearer his co-directors.

Immediately active in the community, Bernard was chairman of FOOS (Friends of Olveston School) for eleven years and chair of Severn Vale Badminton Club for twenty years until 2014. In 2008 he obtained his level 2 coaching qualification and still coaches juniors, and is now playing again after shoulder surgery. He is secretary of the Parochial Church Council of St Mary's, even though much is done from far flung posts in the world!

Although trying to retire, he gets many invitations from all over the world (especially from Shell) and is still racking up the air miles. All the family ski each year, and he and Jo have their first grandson, but I suspect it will be a long time before he is a pipe and slippers grandfather!

"Come and Play at Olveston Pre-School"

Open Morning, 9:30-12pm, Thursday 29 January 2015

At Olveston Pre-School, we like to play. We like to play inside and outside, in our home corner and our mud kitchen, on our trikes and on swings, in our wellies and in our swimsuits. We learn by making a lot of mess at the arts and crafts table and then by tidying up afterwards. We learn by sharing our toys with our friends, playing games in small groups and in quieter moments when sharing a book with an adult. And we have fun in the process!

Our approach at Olveston Pre-School is that children learn through play. Evidence shows that children develop through play; by playing, children learn about themselves, their environment, people and the world around them. As they play, children learn to solve problems and to get along with others. They expand their creative abilities and develop leadership skills and healthy personalities. Play also develops skills children need to learn to read and write. It increases children's language skills as they interact with others and it encourages positive emotional well-being. Play in early childhood is the best foundation for children starting school.

We would like to invite prospective pupils, their parents and carers to come and play with us on Thursday 29 January 2015. Come and see for yourself how our environment helps to develop these skills. Staff will be on hand for guided tours of the Pre-School so that visitors can see our facilities for themselves. Staff will also be able to answer any questions you may have.

We are located at the rear of Olveston Parish Hall in Tockington. Doors will be open from 9.30am to 12pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

Food For Thought

Gavin and Michelle Pitcher

Recently our cat has been subject to poisoning due to a "dodgy mouse dinner". This cost the cat one of its nine lives and a large vet's bill for us. Whilst we have no issues regarding dispatching uninvited pests, it does bring into question the way it happens. Keeping it simple, most bait blocks bought over the counter are of a DIY nature and not strong enough to wipe out a serious problem. Quite often, by the time a house holder has discovered that "Micky" has moved in, his relations have had grandchildren as well. May we appeal to folk to employ the services of a professional or at least to ensure that the bait is used carefully and that all remains are binned. Better still, there are many new baitless electronic products which dispatch vermin instantly. This is surely humane and safe for all.

The Pied Piper

Thornbury Musical Theatre Group are pleased to announce that their 2015 pantomime is 'The Pied Piper'.

This original pantomime is written and directed by our very own Gary Kennedy, who wrote 'Little Red Riding Hood', recently nominated for an Evening Post Rose Bowl award.

The town of Hamelin is overrun with rats! The once happy townspeople are at their wits' end, and look to their Mayor for help. He hires the services of the enigmatic Pied Piper, a man with a mysterious past. Can the Pied Piper rid the town of the rats and at what cost?

This is a traditional all-singing, all-dancing family pantomime. There's an outrageous Dame, silly slapstick and a baddie to boo. With songs ranging from Bruno Mars to Disney, to Morecambe and Wise, there's something for everyone!

Performances at the Armstrong Hall Thornbury BS35 2BJ, 7.30pm Wed 18th-Sat 21st Feb 2015, and 2.30pm Fri 20th/Sat 21st Feb. Adults £10/£12, Concessions £10/£8, Family Ticket £36/£30.

To avoid disappointment book your tickets now, either by phone or on line (no booking fee). Mobile box office 07516 270140. Online box office: www.tmtg.org.uk

Annual OPTA Quiz

Friday 30th January 2015

- Olveston Parish Hall
- 7.30pm (for a prompt 7.45 start).
- Teams of 4 - £5 per person to include light refreshments.
- There will be a bar serving beer, lager, wine and soft drinks.

It is becoming a bit of a tradition for Olveston Parish Twinning Association to run a quiz early on in the New Year, and 2015 will be no exception. Last year's quiz was very well attended and great fun. We tried out a new way of rewarding the winning team - by letting them decide which charity would benefit from the proceeds of the raffle. (FYI it was Riding for the Disabled, and they got £70). This went down very well with all those present and so we think we will do this again!

To reserve your team's table, please contact Noel Clarke (01454 614099).

Flights of Fancy: Owls

Trevor Cook

There is a tradition amongst birders that if they only hear a bird they enter an 'H' against in their records to indicate that they only 'heard' it. When it comes to owls they are more often heard than seen for the obvious reason that they are mainly nocturnal.



Little Owl
©Tony Hisgett

However, our smallest owl, the Little Owl, is often active through the day and can be seen sitting on a fence post or barn roof unconcernedly watching the world. It is only the size of a thrush but is very definitely an owl with its wide face and big hunter's eyes.

Sometimes, too, Barn owls can be seen in the late afternoon or early evening floating like feathery moons across the meadows seeking out small rodents.

Being mainly white it is easy to pick out from the rest of the brown speckled owls. One is sometimes seen at Aust Warth in the early evening.



Barn Owl ©Ed Deane



Short-Eared Owl
©Bex Ross

Also at Aust one can often find the Short-Eared Owl. This is a larger bird which is happy to spend the day in the long grass and then emerge at dusk to hunt along the Warth. Look for the birders watching the owls for a clue to their presence.

The Tawny Owl is more common around the villages and is the one most often heard (and less often seen) as it makes either of its two calls of 'ter-whit' or 'to-who' to wake you from your sleep. During the day it can sometimes be found asleep in a tree, its presence given away by small birds mobbing it.

More on Hawks and owls at: <http://hawkandowl.org/groups/south-gloucestershire-group/>.

Oveston Parish Council, and Community Land Trust Proposal

Richard Rogers (olvestonpc@gmail.com)

Oveston Parish Council would like to thank everyone who attended the public meeting on the 19th November 2014 to discuss the proposed **Community Land Trust** (CLT). As clarified at the meeting, the Parish Council will not get any financial benefit from this project, although it is hoped that its establishment could help to address two pressing issues within the Parish – suitable housing for the young and old, and additional burial space. In the longer term a CLT may also be used to protect other local amenities.

A number of issues were raised by residents and, whilst a decision to form a CLT was not taken, the meeting did agree to allow a group of residents to find out more about CLTs and at the end of the meeting over 30 residents signed up to this group. This group of residents had a further meeting on the 3rd December 2014, between Wessex CLT and a representative from an existing CLT in the South West. Mr G Chappell represented the Parish Council at this meeting, with Mr M Wright the PCC, and Mr R Lloyd the Parish Vision Group.

Whilst further discussions have not been ruled out, it is hoped that SGC will be organising a Housing Needs Survey in the new year, and a further Public Assembly will be organised in February 2015 to give feedback to parish residents on the issues raised, so that a decision can then be taken whether or not a Community Land Trust should be created.

South Glos Council continue to seek financial savings and look to varying the service provided at our **Sort It Centres**, with a view to saving £400,000 a year from April 2016. Considerations include - Limiting business use by clarifying the definition of a van, introducing van permits and limiting the number of times a van can visit in a year; Asking local residents to pre-register for permits before visiting to reduce the number of non-residents using the sites; Introducing a charge for the collection and disposal of some non-household waste items; Changes to opening hours and the days sites are open. Previous such Consultations led to the Council charging for Green Bin collections, and parishioners can download the Consultation Questionnaire or obtain more information at <http://www.southglos.gov.uk/consultation>.

Happy New Year, and good health to all. The next Parish Council meeting is on Tuesday 27th January 2015, but please let the Clerk know if you wish to attend as the normal venue at Old Down is only designed for about a dozen people.

2014 Poppy Appeal

On behalf of the Royal British Legion, I would like to thank the people of Pilning, Severn Beach and Olveston for their tremendous efforts fundraising for the 2014 Poppy Appeal. The amount raised this year was £7072.95. £1322 was raised by the Olveston Women's RBL at the Great War Remembrance concert.

Thanks once again to all concerned,

Stan Bradburn

Poppy Appeal Organiser

Old Down CC

150 Club Winners December 2014:

£50 Dave Birtle
£15 Barry Reeves
£ 5 Ian Watkins

Latest £25 Bonus Ball Winners:

15th November Tracey Jarvis

Happy Christmas & Best Wishes for the New Year, from everyone at Old Down Cricket Club. Up the Down!! Tony Gardner 07889 727729.

Olveston and Tockington WI

A talk will be given by **Joan Flower** on **Women in the First World War**, on **Jan. 13th in the Parish Hall at 7.30pm**. This will cover the changing roles of the women at this time and their important input to the war effort. All will be very welcome to come along for this interesting talk.

Elberton Plough Monday Service

7.30 pm Monday 12th January



St John's The Evangelist in Elberton has been celebrating Plough Monday for over 60 years, since the custom was introduced by Melvyn Ford, formerly of Redhill Farm, Elberton, in the 1950s. The picture above is from the 1969 service.

Olveston Young Farmers continue to take a plough into the church for it to be blessed at the traditional start of the agricultural year, on the first Monday after Epiphany (i.e. the Twelfth Day after Christmas).

Historically the day saw the resumption of work after the Christmas period, and it is thought that Plough Monday dates back to the 15th century. Few churches in South Gloucestershire now celebrate it.

Everyone is welcome to attend the service followed by food and tea/coffee provided by the Young Farmers.

Litter Pick

There will be a Litter Pick on Saturday 3 January. Please meet at 1 pm at the Parish Hall car-park.

News from St Mary's Olveston

Giving Up and To

If, like me, you're not too good or too bothered about New Year Resolutions, but are thinking of giving up something for Lent, rather than just give something up, why not give what you've saved through your abstinence to a charity of your choice? It's good to do something for a reason and for the benefit of others. I'm planning on giving up alcohol again and giving some money to our Bridge to Gautampuri Appeal. What might you do and who might benefit? Give up but give to, as well!

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who supported our launch and the Auction for our Bridge to Gautampuri Appeal. Thanks to your generosity we raised £7,000 in the first month, November, which is astonishing as well as encouraging. If you'd like to contribute to building a multipurpose health and education centre in the slums of Delhi, cheques payable to Olveston PCC can be given to Roly, and they can, of course, be gift aided too. Our target is £15,000 to complete the building.

The Goulash Quiz

Our next Quiz is on Jan 10th at 7.30 in St Mary's Church, with goulash on the menu this time. Chris Smart is as always our genial and superb quizmaster. There is a maximum of 90 people and a maximum of six people per team. First come, first served - email roly@rolybain.co.uk to book a place (and be on the mailing list) or ring Roly on 616593.

Burns Night

St Mary's annual Burns Night Celebration is on Jan 24th, the eve of Burns Night, at the Vicarage at 7.30pm. Tickets are available from Roly or June Robbins at £6 - please book in advance for catering purposes. It's the traditional fare of haggis, neeps and tatties, with the bagpiper to pipe the haggis in, with the added attractions of whisky tasting and a Scottish quiz!

Back to Front

Back to Front is the title of our new 4pm time of prayer and worship ... and cake, and the next one is on Jan 11th. It's designed for people of all ages, and children are welcome too. Everything's back to front so we start with the cake, so get there early for a slice of the action!

Roly Bain

Aust Parish Council Matters

Tim Pyper (austparishcouncil@googlemail.com)

New Parish Councillor

At the November meeting, the Council co-opted Mr David Spratt as a Councillor. He will serve until the end of the current electoral period, until the date for the election in May. David runs a dairy and arable farm in Aust. He is married to Lynda and has two sons, Rob and Greg. He is a past chairman of Olveston Young Farmers and Thornbury NFU. He tells me that he likes real ale, cider and skittles, and that he won the bucking bronco competition at the last Aust fete.

His first meeting will be the first of 2015, on 13th January at Elberton Village Hall. I will report on that meeting in the next issue of Meeting Point.

Come, sing with us

Thornbury Choral Society cordially invites you to come and join them for an all day workshop to study the exciting Requiem by Giuseppe Verdi using the Ricordi score. We will be conducted by Steven Kings and accompanied by our excellent accompanist Robin Baggs. The cost will be £13.50 for singers.

Venue: Thornbury Baptist Church, Grovesend, Thornbury BS35 2EG.

Timetable:	Saturday 21st February 2015
First Rehearsal	10.30 a.m. - 11.30 a.m.
Coffee Break	11.30 a.m. - 12.00 p.m.
Second Rehearsal	12.00 p.m. - 1.00 p.m.
Lunch	1.00 p.m. - 2.00 p.m.
Third Rehearsal	2.00 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.
Tea Break	3.30 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.
Workshop performance	4.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.
	(free entry with a retiring collection)

Tea, coffee, juices, biscuits and cake at tea are included in the cost of the ticket.

Scores: Available for hire for £2

Lunch: Available only by prebooking for £7.50

Booking forms can be downloaded from Thornbury Choral Society's excellent website – www.thornburychoralsociety.org.uk or obtained from Jos Gregson: email jos@josgregson.plus.com or by phone 01454-411652.

Parish Players present "Oliver!"

Rehearsals for Lionel Bart's "Oliver!" are gathering momentum now that the New Year is fast approaching. Following last year's relatively sedate and strictly-for-grown-ups "Hello Dolly", working with twenty-four energetic children and one endearing dog by the name of Morris Webb has been quite a shock to the system but loads of fun for everyone. Often, laughter seems to be the dominant factor at rehearsals.

The iconic role of Oliver will be played on different nights by Jake Woodward and Timothy Mitchell, both last seen playing Anna's Son in "The King & I" of 2012. The Artful Dodger is being played by Alexander Morris, the King's Son in "The King and I", and a talented newcomer from the village, Daniel Browne. Most of the workhouse orphans & members of Fagin's gang are also being played by young local residents, newly recruited to the Parish Players. It was decided, at their own earnest request, not to allocate each one just an orphan role or just a gang member role so there has been a lot for them to learn.

Fagin is played by the experienced Mike Jones, Nancy by Louise Luft, last seen as Laurey in "Oklahoma!", and Bill Sykes by Dan Phillips, also rejoining the company. Phil Savage plays the comedy role of Mr Bumble, partnered by Gill Olewicz as Widow Corney. Ray Hale plays the benevolent Mr Brownlow who rescues the orphaned Oliver and Cath Chappel is cast as his kindly house-keeper, Mrs Bedwin. The notorious funeral directors, Mr & Mrs Sowerberry, are played by Richard Newley & Lesley Clarke. Maedene Webb is cast as Bet, Nancy's loyal friend. Brian Brown plays the archetypal Dickensian character Dr Grimwig.

There are some new members in the chorus and everyone has a cameo role and is fashionably multi-cast.

Andy Black has once again designed a splendid set and Keith Richards and his team have the challenging job of stage management, including a spectacular death for the baddie Bill Sykes! Chloe Allsop-Jones as Musical Director & Linda Evans as Director hope that this family show will appeal to all ages during half-term week from Feb 18th - 21st.

Oliver! - Tickets go on sale

Saturday, 10 January 2015, Olveston Stores, 9 - 11 am

The Parish Player's 2015 production will be Oliver! and will run from Wed. 18th February to Sat. 21st February, at 7.30pm each evening.

Tickets for these performances will go on sale **in the café area** of Olveston Stores on **Saturday 10 January, 9 – 11am** and, after that, from Richard and Jenny Newley on 01454 202011. This is bound to be a sell-out show, so do make a note of the show dates and of the date when tickets go on sale!

The Tudor Navy from the Mary Rose to the Armada

Wednesday 7 January 2015, 7.30pm - Olveston Methodist Church

Tim Bowly, a local retired aerospace engineer, now with a doctorate in history, will tell us what he has discovered about the Tudor Navy. All welcome.

£2 at the door or you can buy annual membership for just £5, also payable at the door, which entitles you to this and three more talks.

Olveston Parish Historical Society
www.olvoston.com/historical-society



Thornbury Castle Revisited

Friday 23 January 2015, 7.30pm -
Tudor Room, Thornbury Castle



The latest in the series of Thornbury & District Museum Winter Talks will be by Tony Cherry, author of 'A History of Thornbury Castle'. In 2012, Tony's book was launched at Thornbury Castle and now we are returning there for another talk, with new stories and previously unseen photographs from several private collections. The talk will be in the Tudor Room of the castle.

Tickets cost £5 and must be booked in advance from the museum: tel: 01454 857774 or email enquiries@thornburymuseum.org.uk. Please note: the museum will be closed during January but ticket reservations can still be made via telephone or email.

Movies at St Mary's: Jan

Trevor Anderson



St Mary's Movie Club in Olveston is now well into its fifth 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 Winter Programme** is now available and you can pick up copies from just inside the church door. If you are on the mailing list, you'll have received your copy by email.

There will be THREE Movie Club films in January. If you haven't yet been, do come along. Everyone is welcome and there is no need to book:

MONDAY MOVIES (*Recent releases and popular classics*)

Mon 5th Jan at 7.30pm: The mixed race daughter of a Royal Navy Admiral is raised by her aristocratic great-uncle in 18th century England. Recently released on DVD, this spirited and good-natured costume drama confronts questions of race and gender head on. (*Cert 12*)

MONDAY MOVIES EXTRA (*Quality 'non-mainstream' films*)

Mon 19th Jan at 7.30pm: Arguably the Marx Brothers' best film, this joyous, irreverent, irrepressible, and at times almost surreal comedy is a masterpiece. A must-see for the mirror scene alone! (*Cert U*)

Plus, in complete contrast, a multi-award winner based on a classic hallucinatory short story. Described as "*one of the greatest short films of all time*":

CHILDREN'S MOVIE CLUB (*Every Monday morning in the hols*)

Mon 5th Jan at 10.00am: Disney animated comedy-adventure about the crew of elite firefighting aircraft and their battle against a massive wildfire. (*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.

From the registers of St Mary's Olveston

17th November 2014: Funeral service followed by burial at St Mary's Olveston of Phyllis Dorothy Rugman, formerly known as Phyllis Longden.

Jazz with Jessica Back by Popular Demand!

If you were lucky enough to hear Jessica Radcliffe's cultured voice with the National Youth Jazz Orchestra at the 2013 Thornbury Festival and heard her at her triumphant return to Thornbury last year, you may like to know that she will be singing again for us on February 6th 2015 alongside a jazz quintet led by local jazz saxophonist Gareth Williams.

Back by popular demand, the group will perform in a relaxed Jazz Café setting. Great music to appeal to all tastes with finger food in the interval included in the price of the ticket. Bar available.

This is the first notice of the concert, which is part of the appeal in aid of the Armstrong Hall Redevelopment Project. It will be held in the Armstrong Hall on Friday 6th February at 7.30pm. Tickets at £10 each will be on sale at Thornbury Town Hall or by phone on 412272.

Thornbury Carers' Support Group

In January the support group will not be meeting on the first Friday of the month (our usual day) because our members felt that the 2nd January would be too early. Instead we will be meeting on Friday January 9th. The time and place will be the same as usual.

St Peter's Hospice - Winter Warmer Lunch

St Peters Hospice Severnside Support Group would be delighted to welcome you to the Methodist Church Hall, Thornbury on Wednesday 28th January at 1.00p.m to our Winter Warmer lunch. This will be Cottage Pie and Crumble followed by tea/coffee – vegetarian option will be available.

Tickets are priced at £8.00 per person and are available from the Town Hall in Thornbury, from 5th January 2015. Please come along and support St Peter's, your local Hospice.

Oveston Parish Vision - Update

After an excellent turnout at our drop-in event in September, the team have been beavering away to complete a final draft of the action plan and we are nearly there! Keep a close eye on the website www.olestonparishvision.co.uk for the draft document in early Jan 2015 and please send us any feedback for consideration prior to the end of February at which point we anticipate producing a summary in Meeting Point, coinciding with the release of the final document online. There will also be limited run hardcopy available on request.

The Vision Team



Calligraphy class at the Chantry

Why not start the New Year with a new hobby? Have you ever fancied trying your hand at this fascinating art? Got a wedding coming up and want to do the place cards yourself? Do you have a calligraphy set sitting in a drawer, and not know what to do with it? Calligraphy is the art of beautiful writing. Suitable if you enjoy making cards or other craft projects.

This class explores this fascinating subject, with basic techniques and simple tools. Calligraphy is a skill that can be learned and is suitable for both left and right handed people, young and old. It is a very hands-on course exploring the many and varied uses of this skill, with plenty of opportunities to explore your creativity and exercise those grey cells.

The course starts on Wednesday 14 January, at The Chantry, Thornbury, from 7.30pm till 9.30pm. For further information please contact Fiona Mitchell, Tel: 07968 209816.

Octopus 2015 Pantomime - 'The Nutcracker Soldier'

an original pantomime written and directed by Alison Bagnall.



'When Herr Glockenspiel gives Clara a Nutcracker Soldier doll for Christmas, little does she realise what magic and danger are in store for her. Kidnapped by the evil Mouse King and his army, can she be saved by the Sugar Plum Fairy and her enchanted friends, the Nutcracker Soldier, Mr Gingerbread and Koh-koh the Furby; or will she be imprisoned forever in the dark and scary Mouse Kingdom? Who are the mysterious Mouseketeers and what is the story behind the mouse with only half a tail? Why do Frau Wiener, the Dame and Hans the kitchen boy need your help to defeat the Mouse King?'

Come and find out at our traditional pantomime. With music from The Nutcracker Suite, songs and jokes, fun and laughter and a host of magical characters – it is a performance not to be missed.

The tickets will be available from 13th December. Prices are £6 and £5 (concessions available) from RA Bennetts on The Plain, or Karen on 413783, or you can order them on-line from www.octopus-thornbury.co.uk.

Performances are from Wednesday 7th January 2015 - Friday 9th January 2015 at 7.30 pm, and on Saturday 10th January at 11am and 2.30 pm in Christ the King Church Hall, Castle Street, Thornbury.

Cricketer Henry Olonga visits

The famous cricketer Henry Olonga will be speaking at Bradley Stoke Evangelical Church on **February 28th at 7.30**. Entry is free.

Henry Olonga and Andy Flower courageously wore black armbands to mourn the death of democracy in Zimbabwe when Zimbabwe hosted cricket's World Cup in 2003.

Any further details can be obtained by speaking to Lynn or Peter Shelley (01454 612201).

Police Report

There were 5 reported crimes for November for the area.

Making off without payment – Aust Services.

Theft of motor vehicle from Travelodge, Aust.

Theft of a purse from a vehicle and theft of cash from a wallet which was lost or stolen, The Street, Olveston.

Padlock cut from a lock on a door of a disused building in Oldbury.

PCSO 9317 Kelly Dimery 0117 9455901 or 07917 586645, or kelly.dimery@avonandsomerset.police.uk

WEA courses:

Beat those post-Christmas blues by learning something new!

All adults are welcome to join our courses which require no previous knowledge or experience and are run in small friendly groups. For further information, or to book a place, ring 01392 457300 or enrol online at www.wea.org.uk. The local contact is Kate on 01454 610071.

C3526093 EXPLORING MOSAICS

7 sessions from 23rd January to 13th March 2015 on Friday mornings from 9.45 to 12.45. Tutor: Nadia Addonizio. Venue: Turnberries Community Centre, Thornbury (next to Rock Street car park). Cost: £86 plus £10 materials charge.

C3526112 CHINESE CULTURE – AN INTRODUCTION TO CUSTOMS, TRADITIONS AND LANGUAGE

A day school to be held on Saturday, 21st February from 10am. Tutor: Rosalind Kong.

Venue: The Chantry, Castle Street, Thornbury. Cost: £30

It's no accident they are calling

South Gloucestershire officers have recently received reports of residents receiving telephone calls from people purporting to be from local Councils asking whether they had recently had an accident and if not, whether anyone else in the household had. When they were told no and questioned further, the caller hung up. The aim is undoubtedly to obtain money or personal details from the people they call, which they can then use for illegal purposes.

If you have received a call from a scammer pretending to be a council, charity or well-known company asking for personal details or payment (including cash, debit or credit card or vouchers), please report it to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040.

Thornbury Library

NEW YEAR OPENING HOURS

Our online services remain open 24/7 at www.librarieswest.org.uk

Thursday 1 January	CLOSED
Friday 2 January	CLOSED
Saturday 3 January	9.30-5.00
Usual opening hours resume	

****NEW****

FREE LibrariesWest app available from Google Play or App Store: make the most of your library membership on-the-go. Search the catalogue with the built-in barcode scanner. Simply scan the ISBN barcode of any book to check availability in libraries and reserve online. Borrower number and PIN required.

Digital library services

Find out more about our range of FREE digital library services, available 24/7 including eBooks, eAudio books and eMagazines. Ask at the library and staff will be pleased to help you. If you would like to bring your device with you we can help to get you started. To find out more information about these free services visit:

<http://www.southglos.gov.uk/libraries> and select "Library e-resources".

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Pre-School StoryTime and RhymeTime

Calling all pre-schoolers and babies! Our regular StoryTime sessions return in 2015 on Monday 5th January at 2.15pm and RhymeTime returns on Friday 9th January at 11am. Sessions run weekly during term-time. There is no charge and no booking is required, new faces welcome. Nappy changing facilities available (please take used nappies away with you). Breast-feeding welcome.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Digital Camera talk...coming soon!

In late January / February we plan to host another popular and practical Digital Camera Talk for beginners, helping you to get the most out of your digital camera. Date TBC: please enquire at Thornbury Library after Christmas. All proceeds to charity.

Macmillan cancer information and support service

Specially trained Macmillan advisers hold information sessions for anyone with questions about cancer, for themselves or someone they know. Sessions take place regularly at Thornbury Library. The sessions are free and no booking is required. Please check at Thornbury Library for upcoming dates, or check the Macmillan website at www.macmillan.org.uk/howwecanhelp and select "Local information centres" from the left-hand menu.

Thornbury Camera Club



Thornbury Camera Club is to run the popular 6 week beginners' course again on Tuesday evenings from 3rd February until 10th March 2015. The course starts from taking a camera out of the box and ends with a good picture, it will de-mystify and remove jargon from the subject and include the use of most types of camera. Several experienced members will be there each night to talk and help with camera use, ensuring individuals have a friendly atmosphere in which to progress.

The course will deal with camera types and basic photography, what megapixels and file sizes are, use and adjustments of cameras, correct use of flash, composition of photos, printing and presenting them. Practical use of your own camera will be encouraged (bring its manual) and guidance given for a good result. The course will cost £60. Enrolment and detailed information can be obtained by accessing the Club web site www.thornburycamera.co.uk, going to the beginners' page and clicking the link to contact the Club Secretary.

Sevenside Ramblers January 2015

Join Sevenside Ramblers on a ramble for some fresh air and exercise, enjoy some great views and hopefully see some wild life. Non-members are always very welcome.

For more information about walks in January 2015, log on to www.sevenside-ramblers.org.uk, or pick up a programme at your local library. A contact name and telephone number is given for each walk. We meet **for Saturday and Sunday walks** at Aztec West, Blue Zone Parking area, near the Management Centre, at the times shown for each walk, and share lifts to the start of the walk. Friday Walks, the meeting point is ALDI Car Park Bradley Stoke. Please bring packed lunch and plenty of fluids. If you want to go directly to the start of the walk, please contact the leader.

Sun 4 January. Dyrham & West Littleton. 8 miles. Gently undulating landscape, tracks & fields. Meet 9.30, Aztec West. Contact Kathy 07890 113179.

Sun 11 January. Historic Usk. 5 Miles. Scenic, easy walk with few stiles. Along the Usk River, through woodland & ancient battle site. Meet 10.00, Aztec West. Contact Jenny & John 01454 777963.

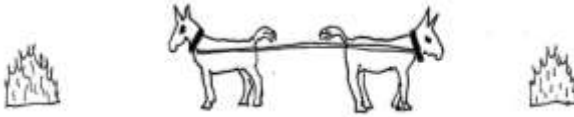
Sun 18 January. Five Villages Walk. 9 miles. Exploring Hinton, Dyrham, Doynton, Abson and Pucklechurch. Meet 9.30, Aztec West. Contact Joy 01179 334998.

Sun 25 January. Portishead. 10 miles. Varied scenery in a walk covering various parts of Portishead. Meet 9.00, Aztec West. Contact David 01275 843547.

Yours Faithfully

Roger Howell

Co-operation



The Quaker Tapestry now housed in Kendal has a panel depicting two donkeys tied together but straining to go in opposite directions towards two different piles of fodder. Getting nowhere, they sit down to think and realise that if they go together in the same direction they can both eat one pile of fodder and then go and eat the other pile.

Human beings have reached their present state of evolution through co-operating in ever increasing degrees. Single family groups co-operated with other family groups to form clans and tribes to their mutual advantage. Once they had settled into agricultural villages co-operation led to expansion into towns and city states. City states combined to form kingdoms and empires – not that the co-operation was unaccompanied by its antithesis, strife, for co-operation was frequently enforced violently and much of the earth's surface is stained with the blood of non-cooperating groups fighting each other. If we are going to learn from the past, like the donkeys we need to sit down and think.



Whether the British electorate in its wisdom decides to leave the EU or not, we are still going to have to co-operate with the rest of Europe to an ever increasing degree. The problems of the future will need co-operation on an enormous scale. No one nation or even group of nations will be able on its own to afford to tackle the immense problems of controlling the earth's climate, feeding the ever increasing billions of humanity, fighting disease and poverty or exploring space.



Church News

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, OLVESTON

Jan 4	8am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Evensong with Choir	Rev Philip Rowe Rev P. Rowe & Rev A Lloyd Rev R. Bain & Mr T. Cook
Jan 11	8am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Morning Worship with Choir Holy Communion	Rev Roly Bain Mr D Foot & Rev Roly Bain Rev Philip Rowe
Jan 18	8am 10am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion with Choir Breakfast Club Evensong	Rev David Bone Rev R. Bain & Rev P. Rowe Breakfast Club Team Mrs Janet McBride
Jan 25	8am 10am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Unity Service at Olv Meth. Ch Breakfast Club Evensong (BCP) with Choir	Rev Roly Bain Breakfast Club Team Mr D Jones & Rev P. 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 Chancel

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

Jan 11	5.30	Holy Communion.	Rev Ann Parker
Jan 25	5.30	Evening Service	Re. Ann Parker

Focal Minister: **Rev Ann Parker**, 01454 632329

Church Wardens: Terry McLeavy 633680 Janet Ford 633300

ST MARY DE MALMESBURY, LITTLETON-ON-SEVERN

Jan 4		No Service	
Jan 18	9am	Holy Communion	Rev David Pole

Contact: **Rev David Pole** 01454 414810; www.sthelsalveston.org

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON

Jan 11	9am	Family Service	Sandra Edgerton
Jan 12	7.30	Plough Monday Service with Olveston Young Farmers	
Jan25	9am	Holy Communion	Rev. David Pole

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

OLVESTON AND TOCKINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

Jan 4	10am 6pm	Tock. Ch. St Andrews	Annual Covenant Service led by Rev P Brazier Evening Worship led by Rev Angie Hoare
Jan 11	10am	Olv. Ch	Morning Worship led by Mrs Deb Brazier
Jan 18	10am	Tock. Ch.	Morning Worship led by Miss Rosemary Clews
Jan 25	10am	Olv.Ch..	United Service for the week of Christian Unity led by Rev Peter Mortlock

NORTHWICK LUNCHEON GROUP: This meets at 12.30pm on Wednesday 14th January. To book your lunch please ring 416528

TOCKINGTON LUNCHEON GROUP meets at 12.15pm in the Swan on Thurs 15th January. To book please ring 613241 or 612112

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 Tues 13th Jan at 10.30am at 7 The Green Olveston.

Another led by Rev Sandy Williams, date and venue to be decided .

THE OLVESTON INTERNET CAFÉ: Olveston Methodist Hall

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

Ring 07833 354672 or 07957 433091 for further information.

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

Jan 4	6.30pm	Paul Ashford
Jan 11	6.30pm	Munir Din
Jan 18	6.30pm	Martin Taylor
Jan 25	6.30pm	Tony Ward

Each Thurs at 7.30pm Prayer & PraiseTime

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.ctk-thornbury.org.uk

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS), Thornbury

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

Local contact: Roger Howell at rogerhowell2@talktalk.net 01454 294367

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

Diary Dates for January 2015

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

1 st Thu	Coffee Shop closed		
2 nd Fri			
3 rd Sat	Coffee Morning Litter Pick	10.30-12.00 1pm	MH PH
4 th Sun	Bingo every Sun at Sports & Social club	7pm	
5 th Mon	Monday Movie Alveston Gardens Association	7.30pm 7.30pm	StM JH
6 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning	9.30-11.30 10.30-12.00	WR DGCL
7 th Wed	O.P.H.S. 'The Tudor Navy' Panto The Nutcracker Soldier-9 th	7.30pm 7.30pm	OMC CTK
8 th Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Toddlers	9.00-12.00 1.45-3.15	OS+ MH
9 th Fri	Thornbury Carers' Support Group Thornbury Picture House 'About Time'	1.00-3.00 7.30pm	Chy CH
10 th Sat	Coffee Morning Coffee Morning Goulash Quiz	10.30-12.00 10.30-12.00 7.30pm	MH AVH StM
11 th Sun			
12 th Mon	Mobile Library Orchard Rise (also 26 th) Mobile Library Daldry Gardens (also 26 th) Mobile Library Old P.O. , L-O-S (also 26 th)	11.10-11.25 11.30-11.50 12.00-12.15	
13 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning Memory Café Aust Parish Council W.I. Women in W.W.1	9.30-11.30 10.30-12.00 10.15-11.45 7.30pm 7.30pm	WR DGCL TMH EVH PH
14 th Wed			
15 th Thu	Thornbury Farmers' Market Coffee Shop Olveston Toddlers	9.00-1.30 9.00-12.00 1.45-3.15	OS+ MH
16 th Fri			
17 th Sat	Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00	MH
18 th Sun			
19 th Mon	Monday Movie Extra	7.30pm	StM
20 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning	9.30-11.30 10.30-12.00	WR DGCL

21 st Wed	Severn Vale Flower Club. Jazz at the White Hart Olveston	2pm 8.30pm	AH
22 nd Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Toddlers Th. & District Flower Club Practice	9.00-12.00 1.45-3.15 7.30pm	OS+ MH TMH
23 rd Fri			
24 th Sat	Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00	MH
25 th Sun			
26 th Mon	Severn Vale Flower Club Practice	1.30	AH
27 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers Memory Café Olv. Parish Council meeting	9.30-11.30 10.15-11.45 7.30pm	WR TMH AP
28 th Wed	St Peters Hospice Winter Warmer Lunch Alveston Local History Society - 'Clifton'	1pm 7.30pm	TMH AMC
29 th Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Toddlers	9.00-12.00 1.45-3.15	OS+ MH
30 th Fri	O.P.T.A. (Twinning Association) Quiz	7.30pm	PH
31 st Sat	Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00	MH
Looking ahead to February			
18-21 st	'Oliver'	7.30pm	PH

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; **CTK** Christ the King; **DGCL** – Daldry Gardens Community Lounge; **EVH** – Elberton Village Hall; **LVH** Littleton Village Hall **MH** – Olveston Methodist Hall;**OMC** Olv Meth Ch; **OS** – Olveston School; **Ost** – Olveston res; **OV** – Olveston Vicarage; **PH** – Olveston Parish Hall; **StM** St Mary's Church, Olv.; **StMA** Almondsbury Church **SMH** St Mary,s Ch. Hall Thornbury;**TCh** Tockington Chapel **TBCh** - Thornbury Baptist Church; **TMH** – Thorn. Methodist Hall; **URC** - Thornbury United Reform Church; **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.olvestonandaust.com. If you would like to update your organisation's details, please email: meetingpointsecretary@olvestonandaust.com

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